



Indian Country Update

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

SUMMER 2005

President Bush Issues Presidential Message To Commemorate Native American Self-Determination

On July 8, 2005, President Bush issued a Presidential Message to commemorate the 35th anniversary of President Nixon's historic self-determination speech to the United States Congress. In his speech, President Richard M. Nixon laid the foundation for Indian self-determination, education assistance and economic development. President Bush is committed to strengthening the Indian right to self-determination and has supported policies that foster that right, including signing an Executive Memorandum on September 23, 2004 that reinforces the unique government-to-government relationship



with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

In his message, President Bush paid "tribute to the courage and determination of Native Americans," and pledged that his "Administration remains committed to honoring the proud legacy of

Native Americans by continuing to recognize the defining principles of Tribal Sovereignty and the right to self-determination."

The Presidential Message was delivered to all federally-recognized tribal leaders, along with a congratulatory note from Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Intergovernmental Affairs, who hosted a national White House conference call to highlight this important event.. Mr. Barrales also hosted a national White House conference call to highlight this important event.

President Bush Signs Into Law The First National Energy Plan In More Than A Decade

On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed into law a national energy plan that will encourage energy efficiency and conservation, promote alternative and renewable energy sources, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, increase domestic production, modernize the electricity grid, and encourage the expansion of nuclear energy. Thus with over 30% of the natural resources in the United States found on tribal land, this plan is a historic victory for Indian Country.

Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 gives Tribes unprecedented flexibility to manage energy resources on their lands and to request access to fiscal and technical expertise from federal government sources. It will allow Tribes to further their efforts towards self-governance and self-determination. The Act will also allow Tribes to use their energy resources as a foundation for economic



President George W. Bush holds the box containing the energy bill after signing the H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2005 at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Monday, Aug. 8, 2005. Also in attendance were Pueblo Governors: Roland Johnson, Laguna; Arlen Quetawki, Zuni; and Raymond Concha, Acoma. White House photo by Eric Draper

development initiatives, both on and off tribal land.

The Act includes provisions that:

- Allow Tribes to submit a Tribal Energy

Resource Agreement to the Secretary of the Interior, requesting they be given authority to enter into governing leases, business agreements, and rights-of-way leases for energy projects, without need for further Secretarial approval.

- Allow Tribes to expand their technical and management expertise by setting up a tribal energy resource development organization, which can include non-Indian entities. These organizations can apply for a grant, loan, or other assistance from federal government in the name of the Tribe.
- Require the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement an Indian energy resource development program to assist Tribes and tribal energy resource development

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Bush Administration in Indian Country

Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and other White House staff spoke to members of the National Indian Gaming Association at their legislative summit in Washington, DC on July 13, 2005.

On June 6, 2005, the Bush Administration announced the creation of a new office through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. The Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade will assist American Indian entrepreneurs and businesses to generate jobs and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Kay Bills, a member of the Osage Nation with over 30 years of experience in Indian Country with the Alaska Natives, will head the newly created office.

Hurricane Katrina Update

Parts of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida were ravaged by Hurricane Katrina this week. President Bush has declared the affected area a national disaster area, and has directed Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to chair a cabinet-level White House Task Force to coordinate all assistance from Washington, DC. The federal government is working closely with state, local and tribal governments to carry-out one of the largest disaster response mobilizations in United States history.

Tribes in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama were affected by Hurricane Katrina; in particular the Choctaw Band of Indians in Mississippi has been particularly devastated by the storm. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and FEMA are helping Choctaw officials on the reservation with the relief effort.

President Bush has called on all Americans to support the relief and rescue efforts through charitable contributions and aid. Americans who wish to contribute can do so by contacting charities that are assisting with hurricane relief.

Donate cash to:

American Red Cross
1-800-HELP NOW (435-7669) English,
1-800-257-7575 Spanish;

Donate Cash to and Volunteer with:

Catholic Charities, USA
703-549-1390

Salvation Army
1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Southern Baptist Convention —
Disaster Relief
1-800-462-8657, ext. 6440

United Methodist Committee on Relief
1-800-554-8583

For further information:

visit the website for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) at:
<http://www.nvoad.org/>.

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organizations in developing Indian energy resources in four ways: (1) make available federal scientific and technical expertise available to Tribes or tribal energy resource development organizations, (2) provide low-interest loans to Indian tribes and tribal energy resource development organizations for promotion of energy resource develop-

ment on Indian land, (3) make available development grants to tribes and tribal energy resource development organizations and (4) help facilitate the integration of energy resources.

The Act establishes an Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs within the Department of Energy to promote Indian energy development, reduce energy costs, and bring electricity

to Indian land. It requires the Secretary of Energy to establish programs to assist Indian tribes in meeting energy education, research and development, planning, and management needs. This office will allow the Secretary of Energy to provide loan guarantees for up to 90% on any loan made to any Indian tribe for energy development and to provide grants on a competitive basis to an Indian tribe or tribal energy resource development organization.

Yes, I would like to become informed about White House activities...



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