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Axe, Danny Little

info: Child Welfare - Indians

July 25, 1977

Mr. Danny Little Axe  
Tribal Administrator  
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Post Office Box 1747  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Dear Mr. Axe:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Senator Abourezk concerning the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977.

I greatly appreciate your providing me with such a detailed critique of this important legislation. I am aware of the recurring problem of oversight of Oklahoma Indians in federal Indian legislation, and it is good to see you addressed yourself to this point as well as to others.

If I will be able to secure Congressional action on this bill and I will certainly use any influence I can on the House side to insure consideration of the points which you raised.

Once again, thank you for your comments. I hope to hear from you in the future on issues of importance to you and the Tribe.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES  
Member of Congress

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RECEIVED

July 20, 1977

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JAMES R. JONES, M.C.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senator James Abounezk  
United States Senate  
Select Committee on Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We the representatives, duly elected by the membership of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, wish to submit the following comments on S. 1214 (Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977) for the record.

But first let us say, thank you for your interest in the American Indian. Throughout Indian Country your name and interests have reached the ears of our people. We cannot fully express our gratitude utilizing this type of communication. But thanks again for your efforts.

Comments:

1. Page 4, line 18, after the word reservation, add; "or Tribal lands in Oklahoma."  
We the Oklahoma Indian, have been considered ineligible too many times because of the wording of Congressional Bills which leave out wording that would include Oklahoma Tribes. As you may recall, our Tribal lands in Oklahoma are not considered reservations.
2. Page 4, line 22, after the word state, add; "Tribe" to prevent misunderstanding of jurisdiction of any non-tribal agency, both entities must understand the authorities of each. We would argue that the tribe should license a non-tribal agency to perform functions and exercise responsibilities in the areas of social services, welfare, and domestic relations, including child placement when such non-tribal agency deals with members of a tribe.
3. Page 5, line 20, after the word "reservation," add "or tribal and/or trust lands in Oklahoma" again the Oklahoma tribes are being left out...
4. Page 6, line 1, same as above. "Must word to include Oklahoma Tribes."

Page 6, line 4, after the word reservation insert wording to include tribal lands in Oklahoma or recognize the tribal lands in Oklahoma as reservations.

Senator James Abounezk  
July 20, 1977

Page 2

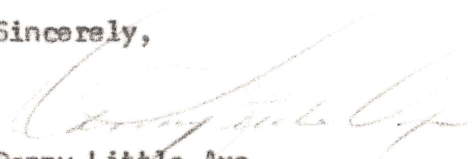
6. Page 6, line 5, after the word reservation, "include wording for Oklahoma Tribes." (same as items 3, 4, & 5)
7. Page 6, line 10, after the word reservation, include wording for Oklahoma Tribes as in No.'s 3, 4, & 5.
8. Page 6, line 18, comments same as No.'s 3, 4, 5, & 6.
9. Page 7, line 8, comments same as No.'s 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8.
10. Page 12, line 1. Same as above.
11. Page 13, line 4, after the word reservation. Same as above.

These Senator, are our comments and recommendations. We would urge you to give our comments every consideration because a bill as important as this, must be concise enough to include the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma.

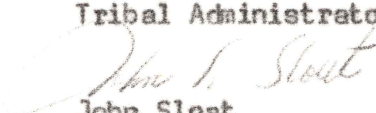
In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to comment and would like to state for the record, that we support this bill (S-1214) fully with our recommended changes.

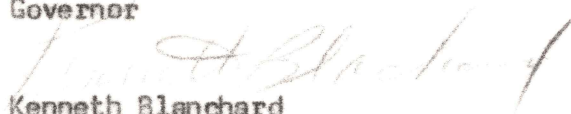
If we can be of any further assistance, please advise.


Sincerely,


  
Danny Little Axe  
Tribal Administrator

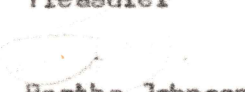
cc: Senator Bellmon  
Senator Bartlett  
✓ Congressman Jones  
Congress Risenhoover  
Congressman Watkins  
Congressman Steed  
Congressman Edwards  
Congressman English

  
John Sloat  
Governor

  
Kenneth Blanchard  
Lt. Governor

  
Darlene Perryman  
Secretary

  
Ruth Musick  
Treasurer

  
Bertha Johnson  
Representative