

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, COLORADO, CHAIRMAN
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII, VICE CHAIRMAN

JOHN MC GAIN, ARIZONA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CRAD THOMAS, WYOMING
ORAIN Q. HATCH, UTAH
JAMIE M. INHOPE, OKLAHOMA
GORDON SMITH, OREGON
LISA MURKOVSKI, ALASKA

KENT CONRAD, NORTH DAKOTA
HARRY REID, NEVADA
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
BYRON L. BORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON

PAUL MCCREHEAD,
MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR/CHIEF COUNSEL
PATRICIA M. ZELL,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR/CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6460

<http://Indian.senate.gov>

July 23, 2003

VIA FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Tenth St. and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent forced closure of the Naragansett Indian Tribe's convenience store by the State of Rhode Island. Anyone who witnessed the episode on videotape - as I have - surely was sickened and profoundly disappointed at the tactics used by the state in its dispute with the tribe regarding sales of tobacco on the tribe's lands.

In recent days there have been reports of other imminent confrontations, such as the State of Maine and the Micmac Indian Tribe. In the strongest terms I urge you to use your good offices to ensure that these disputes are handled in a peaceable way that respects both the sovereignty and perspectives of the states and tribes involved.

Thank you for your attention to this most important issue and your continued consideration for Indian tribes and Indian people.

Sincerely,


Ben Nighthorse Campbell
CHAIRMAN