

## ***Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe***

*Post Office Box 256*

*Nixon, Nevada 89424*

*Telephone: (775) 574-1000 / 574-1001 / 574-1002*

*FAX (775) 574-1008*

January 14, 2010

Senator Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
528 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Debt Ceiling Bill

Dear Senator Reid:

This is written to express my strong support for the Individual Indian Money Account Litigation Settlement Act of 2009 and to urge your leadership to include this critically important legislation in the Debt Ceiling Bill. The \$3.4 billion settlement is historic and would resolve 14 years of costly trust litigation against the United States and will begin to heal the century old injustice to Indians caused by the government's mismanagement of their trusts.

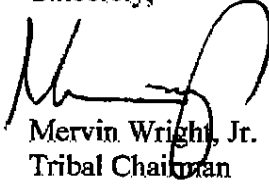
Your legislative support is called upon to champion this effort for Indian Country and on behalf of the 500,000 individual Indian trust beneficiaries. It is important not only for me and for our tribal members here in Nevada but also for all of Indian Country. More beneficiaries would have enjoyed the benefit of this settlement but however they have died before they could recover what is determined as rightfully theirs. Our people need your help to get this done.

This settlement has been personally endorsed by President Obama as it fulfills in part his campaign promise to Indian People. It will also substantially resolve the fractionated interest problem that the Department of Interior identifies as the primary reason it cannot manage the individual trust prudently. In addition, it would provide as a lasting legacy \$60 million in funding for post-secondary education scholarships for Indian children.

Without enactment of the settlement authorization by February 28, 2010, the settlement agreement will expire by its own terms. That failure could publicly embarrass the President. President Obama, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, and Attorney General Eric Holder have all publicly claimed victory for the settlement; so it would be a terrible injustice to Indian People if it fails.

Therefore, I ask for your support and leadership action with the hope that you can favorably move this legislative request forward. Your time and attention is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mervin Wright, Jr.  
Tribal Chairman

/mw

cc: Tribal Council Members  
Ms. Elouise Cobell, NACDC  
Secretary Ken Salazar  
Attorney General Eric Holder  
Ms. Kimberly Tee Hee, DPC  
Ms. Wendy Helgamo  
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