

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 478-3700
FAX # (208) 237-0797



FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Cobell Trust Fund Settlement

Dear Representative Simpson:

This letter is to advise you that the Fort Hall Business Council supports the \$3.4 billion settlement agreed upon in the Cobell Trust Fund Settlement case (*Cobell v. Salazar*) in December. The lawsuit claims that the federal government mismanaged individual Indians' trust accounts. Under the terms of the Settlement, the federal government will create a \$1.4 billion Accounting/Trust Administration Fund and a \$2 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund. The Settlement also creates an Indian Education Scholarship fund of up to \$60 million to improve access to higher education for Indians.

This Settlement requires approval from Congress. We ask that you consider supporting legislation approving the Settlement with a target approval date of April 16, 2010, to settle this historic case of the government's mismanagement of trust funds belonging to more than 500,000 Indian people throughout Indian Country, including thousands of Indian account holders right here in Idaho. While tribal governments are not party to this lawsuit, we believe that the last 13 years of litigation has negatively impacted tribal-federal relations and we look forward to putting this longstanding trust fund mismanagement issue behind us.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter, and all you do for Native Americans in Idaho.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alonzo Coby", is written over a circular stamp that partially overlaps the signature.

Alonzo Coby, Chairman
Fort Hall Business Council