



OSAGE NATION CONGRESS
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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
ELI POTTS

Public Statement
Treasurer Update
4/4/24 12:30PM

The Osage Nation- 1055 days. That's 2 years, 10 months, and 20 days the Osage Nation went without a legally qualified Certified Public Accountant serving as the Nation's Treasurer as required by Osage law.

In that time, The Nation received over \$182 Million dollars in ARPA and CARES Act Funds in addition to the annual distribution from our gaming enterprise and tax commission that total over \$100 Million during that same time.

Yesterday, April 3rd, 2024, Congress received a resignation letter from Mr. McIntosh who has been acting Treasurer for the past two years.

Despite the defense of his performance, the Congress has failed to receive legally mandated monthly non-tribal financial during his tenure in office. The Congress has repeatedly asked for reports that appear to be in a perpetual state of preparation for Congress. He attacked the Congress and the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review for conducting our oversight authority.

Moss Adams, a nationally recognized auditing firm with more than 111 years of experience is currently fulfilling the role of the Office of Fiscal and Performance Review. Mr. McIntosh's assessment that "all future assessments of Treasury [by Moss Adams] [will be] negative, as this benefits their firm by producing more income" is not only an attack on Moss Adams' reputation but suggests that profits are the basis for their findings instead of unbiased reporting to the Osage Nation Congress.

Mr. McIntosh seems to have a very unfavorable opinion of how Congress has chosen to fulfill our Constitutional duty to conduct oversight, yet from that Nation's own social media accounts, it appears he has accepted a contract position with this administration to assist the new Treasurer. Simultaneously, the Congress is being asked to consider appropriation requests of approximately a quarter-million dollars in professional fees, presumably to cover the costs of this contract that was not previously planned for in our budgetary process. My hope is that the contract for services has not been executed by the Executive Branch without an appropriation from the Osage Nation Congress.

This letter is a strong indicator of why we need a Treasurer that is required to uphold the professional standards of being a qualified Certified Public Accountant. To attack the legal standards established by Osage law, Osage Law itself, Osage Congressional actions, a nationally recognized auditing firm, and to question the motives behind Congressional oversight are but a few examples of why the Treasurer of the Nation should be held to a professional standard, not a political standard. While his attacks may be supported by certain political voices in our government, they are, in my opinion, unbecoming of someone worthy of holding the Office of Treasurer of the Osage Nation. They are equally offensive coming from someone who had promised to uphold the financial laws of this Nation.

I welcome Mr. Batson's appointment and look forward to interviewing him in a Congressional Session.