



OSAGE NATION CONGRESS  
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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
ELI POTTS ~ JOHN MAKER ~ JOE TILLMAN

Joint Statement- For Immediate Release  
Fiscal Responsibility  
9/9/21 10:40AM

The Osage Nation- The Osage Nation has been without a Treasurer since April of 2021 when Jim Littleton resigned the position. The strain being placed on the Osage Nation Treasury Department is evident.

During Tuesday's meeting of the Congressional Appropriations meeting, information was discussed that we believe is cause for concern.

We are concerned by the following:

- The Chief submitted a budget that is \$9,363,598 over the budgetary outlay established by ONCR 21-08.
- Congress has not received a "Monthly Budget Modification Report" since February of 2020.
- Congress has not received "Monthly Financial Statements" since September of 2020.
- Congress has not received a legally mandated "Quarterly Financial Report" since September of 2020.
- The Constitutionally mandated *annual* audit for FY 2020 has not yet started. (FY20 ended in Sept. of 2020).
- The FY21 fiscal year will close on 9/30/21, at which point we will start that annual audit after the FY20 audit is complete. We will once AGAIN be behind two years on the annual audit.

While each of these issues could be the subject of a press release itself, we have chosen to focus on what we believe is the overarching issue, the lack of leadership.

**We are calling on Chief Standing Bear to appoint a Treasurer for the Osage Nation Congress to consider for confirmation during this 2021 Tzi-Zho session.**

The Chief is allowed to appoint a Treasurer at any time, but the appointee must be confirmed by the Osage Nation Congress. If the Chief waits until after the current session had adjourned, the appointed treasurer will be able to operate until next Spring before Congress will be able to consider the appointment. Congress should be able to consider the Chief's appointee during this session instead of allowing the Nation's financial future to be in such an unbalanced state. "We're going on four months without a Treasurer, the people aren't being served by this and it needs to be done" said Congressman Maker.

Congressman Potts said, "What I see in Congress is multiple unfulfilled requests for information, missing or materially insufficient financial statements, errors, miscalculations, and an unexplainable lack of concern by many. We should be demanding transparency and accountability, and we should be demanding a forensic audit. This performance is unacceptable and I don't understand why some seem complacent with allowing it to continue."

Continued

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“Littleton’s departure couldn’t have been unexpected, if it was, that’s more concerning. We’re on what will be our 4th Treasurer during the Standing Bear Administration, this isn’t adding up to sound fiscal policy. I agree that we should be calling for a forensic audit of the Nation, but I believe we need to have a Treasurer in place first” said Congressman Tillman.

Chief Standing Bear has a history of appointing top administration officials just after a legislative session concludes in which they could have been considered for confirmation.

Treasurer Alexander, Chief Standing Bear’s first appointed Treasurer, was appointed 13 days after the adjournment of the Hun-Kah Session in May 2016, he served as interim Treasurer and was confirmed in September of 2016 (4 months later).

Treasurer Littleton, Chief Standing Bear’s second appointed Treasurer, was appointed 18 days after the adjournment of the Tzi-Zho Session in September of 2018, he served as interim Treasurer and was confirmed in April of 2019 (7 months later).

The search for Treasurer Catcher’s (2012-2016) replacement lasted approximately 30 days. Catcher announced her resignation April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, her resignation was effective on April 29<sup>th</sup> and Treasurer Alexander was sworn in as Interim Treasurer on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The search for Treasurer Alexander’s (2016-2018) replacement lasted approximately 30 days. Alexander failed to gain support for reconfirmation on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Treasurer Littleton was sworn in as Interim Treasurer on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Treasurer Littleton announced his resignation in April of 2021. Five months later, the Chief has not appointed a replacement.

Congressman Tillman concluded, “Here we are, five months after the Chief’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Treasurer resigned and we have no idea who the next Treasurer will be. Meanwhile, Congress hasn’t seen a legally mandated quarterly financial statement in over 9 months, hasn’t seen monthly financials in almost a year, hasn’t received requested reports going back several months, and soon Congress will again be waiting on two years of annual financial audits, this should be a top priority. What I believe the Osage people deserve is a balanced checkbook, a clean audit with no repeat findings, and for the laws of the Osage Nation to be followed.”

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