

February 7, 2006

Joe Garcia, President
The National Congress of American Indians
1301 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20036

Dear President Garcia:

It was great to see you in Tulsa as President of NCAI! I am very excited that someone with Ohkay Owingeh traditional insight and spirituality will lead NCAI in times that will challenge our Indigenous Nations. I read your "The Four Great Steps" State of Indian Nations speech delivered on February 2, 2006 at The Nation Press Club, Washington, D.C.

I am counsel for the Terminated Mixed-Blood Uinta Utes from the Uinta & Ouray Reservation in Utah. We filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, in an effort to reverse the Ute Partition Act, an Act of Congress that "exterminated" the Uintas in 1954. It is ironic that no evidence exist proving that the Uintas ever voted among themselves to voluntarily end their relationship as "Indians" with the U.S. Government. On January 27, 2006, the U.S. District Judge presiding over our case dismissed it in favor of the U.S. Government.

My clients share the same spiritual outlook and belief in the "Four Directions" as you describe in your State of Indian Nations speech. This resoluteness has keep them going forward in their battle to regain their stolen identity as "Uintas". They are the last of the first group of Indian Nations terminated in the early 1950's who remain formally stripped of the status as federally-recognized Indians. As part of our overall strategy, we will be asking for support among the Indian Nations to help the Uintas propose legislation to the U.S. Congress to restore their status.

Today, four U.S. Presidents spoke about the immense role played by Coretta Scott King in battling racism in America. It is ironic that Rev. Martin Luther King and Coretta King fought successfully against "Jim Crow" at the same time Congress was enacting "termination" legislation against the Uintas and other unfortunate victims of this genocidal federal policy.

I enclose a picture of Four Eagle Feathers as my way of sending you and your family blessings from the Great Eagle Spirit.

Sincerely,

Dennis G. Chappabitty