

PETITION

I would like to petition the Speaker to ensure that the Osage Nation Constitution is upheld to its fullest extent.

Osage Nation Constitution - Article X – Code of Ethics, Section 4:

Section 4. Conflicts of Interest: In order to assure independence and impartiality, tribal officials and employees are prohibited from using public positions to influence or otherwise effect government decisions for personal gain. Tribal officials and employees shall fully and in a timely manner disclose any conflicts, real or apparent, that might be seen to influence their judgment in the performance of their duties. Tribal officials and employees shall abstain from participation in deliberations or decision-making where any conflicts are deemed to exist.

Osage Nation Constitution – Article IX – Oath of Office:

“In doing so, I will always uphold and defend the Constitution of the Osage Nation, so help me God.”

During Session on Monday, March 19, 2007 two Congressional votes resulted in a tie where Assistant Principal Chief Johnny Red Eagle broke the tie by voting for his brother, Congressman Eddie Red Eagle. According to Article X of the constitution, “tribal officials shall disclose any conflicts that might be seen to influence their judgment”. Previously, during the first special session of the Congress, Assistant Principal Chief Johnny Red Eagle chose to remove himself from voting and chose not to cast a ballot to break a tie between his brother, Congressman Eddie Red Eagle and Congressman Archie Mason, because he felt there was a “conflict of interest”.

Yet, today, he chose to break the tie twice in favor of his brother, even though he has previously stated that he acknowledges there is a conflict of interest in that type of situation. This results in a neglect of Article X.

This also results in neglect of Article IX – Oath of Office, of the Constitution. According to Article IX of the Constitution, elected officials were sworn in by an oath of office to “uphold and defend the Constitution of the Osage Nation, so help me God”.

I am petitioning the following:

That, in the future, any time there is a “conflict of interest, real or apparent” that the Speaker has a duty to ensure that the Constitution is adhered to and that “Tribal officials shall abstain from participation in deliberations or decision-making where any conflicts are deemed to exist” as according to Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Thank you.

Congresswoman Faren Revard Anderson

March 19, 2007