



TO: The Honorable Ralph Ostmeyer, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

FROM: Steve Cadue, Chairman
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

RE: SB 111 - An Act designating Native American Legislative Day at the Capitol.

DATE: February 12, 2013

Good morning Chairman Ostmeyer and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, I am pleased to appear before you today and offer the support of our Tribal Council for SB 111 introduced by Senator Faust-Goudeau that would designate the first Wednesday of February beginning in 2014 as Native American Legislative Day at the capitol.

While I have said perhaps far too many times that actions speak louder than words and for that matter, proclamations, ceremonies, resolutions and more, the sovereign nation of the Kickapoo Tribe does appreciate this gesture and hopes it will lead to a greater understanding of Native American issues by members of the Kansas Legislature and our elected officials.

The Kickapoo Tribe's reservation was established by a treaty with the Federal Government in what is now Brown County many years before Kansas became a state. Our treaty with the Federal Government recognizes the sovereign status of the Tribe and creates a framework for working government-to-government with Federal, State and Local governments. We embrace those relationships and welcome the opportunity to do more in this regard.

One way in which we have worked together is legislation passed years ago that allowed our tribal law enforcement officers to work collaboratively with non-tribal law enforcement agencies in areas surrounding our reservation, such as with the office of the Brown County Sheriff, Kansas Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies. We can and should do more.

Many people do not understand the sovereign nation status of a Federally-recognized tribe. In many respects, we are no different than the state of Kansas and local governmental units. We have a tribal government that manages tribal interests and provides for our members as you do for the citizens of Kansas. We have our own law enforcement officers, a tribal court, public services for tribal members, road maintenance department, tribal-owned and operated businesses, health care services and so much more. The kinds of issues facing our tribal government are often similar to the challenges you face as legislators.

In 2011, Governor Sam Brownback issued a formal proclamation of apology to the Native Peoples at the Kansas Tribal 150 Commemoration held at the Kansas Historical Society. The Governor has been a friend to Native Americans and we appreciate that as well.

I will close by stating this legislation is supported by the Kickapoo people and we are hopeful through its passage, the Legislature will gain a better understanding of Native Americans in our state and beyond.

Thank you for your time today.

For more information on the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, please refer to our website:

<http://ktik-nsn.gov>