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WASHINGTON -- Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne today praised the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Carl J.' Artman to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

Artman, an enrolled member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, currently serves as the department's Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs. He previously was chief counsel of the Oneida Tribe and served on the staff of U.S. Rep. Michael Oxley.

"Carl is an outstanding choice to oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs because of his extensive experience working with and for tribal governments as well as in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government," Kempthorne said. "I have personally worked with him and know he will ably serve his fellow American Indians, Alaska Natives and all Americans as we address important issues, such as education, law enforcement and economic development in Indian Country."

As chief counsel for the Oneida Tribe, Artman managed all legal affairs of the tribe and provided legal guidance for tribal-wide reorganization and economic development. Artman also has experience with various telecommunications companies, including serving as general manager of development and operations for VoiceStream Wireless and vice president of legal affairs for Airadigm Communications.

Artman received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., and his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

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