



Comments

1 message

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I am offering these comments about the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The reason for this is because I live within the exterior boundaries of land owned by my Tribe and that federal agency's actions have a direct affect on me and my family. The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of Indians. Many of us have worked or have family who work for the BIA in the midwest. As I travel to other states over the summer pow-wow season, many of us talk about the shake up happening at the BIA. We compare notes and talk about what we would do to downsize the BIA. Many talk that we don't need to be "oversighted" any longer but I can't agree. We need the Indian affairs programs but when their budget shrinks, and their staff shrinks, ours do too. Someone in Oklahoma said that the BIA doesn't do anything for us reservation Indians but I think she let her anger speak for her. She doesn't speak for all of us in Indian country. My travels bring me to the Rapid City area, Billings, Oklahoma all over Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The talk around Indian country is that you can see what BIA offices truly care about providing good service to their tribes. My advice is to compare the size of the regional offices, and ask where they can trim the fat. Do all the BIA regional offices really need two deputies maybe the big offices do. That will save \$100,000 at each small or medium size regional office. What about all the BIA cars and trucks those BIA people drive. I see them parked at the walmart parking lot and in diners and at some homes. Can't they share cars that would save money. They have the same people doing the same things at all the regions. Can't they share budget and admin people. I hear that the fish and wildlife office takes care of all the contracts for the Minneapolis office cant they do it for all the BIA around the them. What ever happened to Indian preference when you start bending the rules you soon find yourself breaking the law. I hear that regions pay another federal agency to do Human Resources work? Is it okay to mis manage resources that could be used for tribes? Figure heads serving as management could best serve our communities if they were eliminated and more expertise mobilized to the tribal communities would help us better. It's hard to understand the rationality of having so many leaders and less front line workers. This needs to change. Quit wasting federal monies to pad the pockets of high paid figure heads.