



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Chairman Cochran  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

cc: Appropriations Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Members

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
**Tex G. Hall**  
*Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Joe A. Garcia**  
*Ohkay Owingeh*  
*(Pueblo of San Juan)*

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**Juana Majel**  
*Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission*  
*Indians*

TREASURER  
**W. Ron Allen**  
*Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

## REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA  
**Edward K. Thomas**  
*Tlingit and Haida Tribes*

EASTERN OKLAHOMA  
**Jefferson Keel**  
*Chickasaw Nation*

GREAT PLAINS  
**Harold Frazier**  
*Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe*

MIDWEST  
**Gordon Adams, Jr.**  
*Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians*

NORTHEAST  
**Kevin Seneca**  
*Seneca Nation*

NORTHWEST  
**Ernie Stensgar**  
*Coeur d'Alene Tribe*

PACIFIC  
**Leslie Lohse**  
*Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**Raymond Parker**  
*Chippewa-Cree Business*  
*Committee*

SOUTHEAST  
**Eddie Tullis**  
*Poarch Band of Creek Indians*

SOUTHERN PLAINS  
**Zach Pahmahmie**  
*Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation*

SOUTHWEST  
**Manuel Heart**  
*Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*

WESTERN  
**Arlan Melendez**  
*Reno-Sparks Indian Colony*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Jacqueline Johnson**  
*Tlingit*

July 5, 2005

Dear Chairman Cochran:

I am writing on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians, the nation's largest and oldest organization of tribal governments, to express our concern about funding levels for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and to urge you to fully fund the CPB. Many Native radio stations rely on CPB funding for large percentages of their operating budgets. Native radio stations will be among the stations hardest hit by any cuts to CPB funding. NCAI Resolution WAS-04-003, adopted in 2004, recognizes the importance of Native radio and endorses continued funding for the Native radio system through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The Native Public Radio system is comprised of 33 Native-owned public radio stations across the country. Native stations are essential institutions in their communities and serve a critical role in providing news and information about tribal governance, health, public safety, and community events. It is often the only place on a reservation where people can hear programming for and by people of Native communities. Native radio is also central to Native language and cultural preservation.

We strongly urge the Committee to preserve this vital resource for our communities by fully funding the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me or NCAI staff member Virginia Davis, at 202-466-7767, if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Tex G. Hall  
President, National Congress of American Indians

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org