

Stockwell, Hope

From: Amber Lamb <amber_lamb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Senatorjwb@gmail.com; Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Senator Fielder

Thank you Mr. Kennedy and Tribal Relations Interim Committee. The following statement is submitted in hopes that my views as a member of the Ft. Peck Assinboine/Sioux tribe will be heard and considered in relation to the issue of Senator Fielders recent participation in the CERA conference held in Kalispell, MT on September 26, 2015.

Senator Fielder strongly aligns herself with CERA and ALC . In my view, both organizations operate on the same race-based propaganda in relation to tribal lands and sovereign rights. While claiming to be based on non-discriminatory views, CERA directly targets tribal lands and members. As a tribal member, when I read the mission statement and policies of CERA and ALC, what I think about is that boarding schools were created with the same kind of race-based discrimination. Even though many of the people involved with trying to force assimilation on Natives were attempting to be helpful, the same underlying thought prevailed in the creation of those policies: That Natives, by their very nature, were not able to manage their affairs at a level that would keep the majority happy with their existence.

By seeking to eliminate the state sovereignty of tribal nations, CERA, ALC and Senator Fielder are now saying the same thing. Two generations ago, my grandmother lived on Hill 57 outside of Great Falls, Montana. It is very obvious to me that there has been an incredible amount of adaptation for tribal people to endure in a short span of time. Tribal courts and members are just now beginning to gain speed and power as players in the government system.

People and organizations who fear that they are losing something because another person or organization is gaining use that fear to try and inspire others to their cause. Despite the long history of mistrust in Federal policy for Native people, there has been positive changes in the last few decades. Of course, those who don't really believe that Natives are capable of tribal management balk at tribal growth and try to promote to the general public that non-Native people are losing something because of the "special treatment" Natives receive.

This kind of mindset is very dangerous and damaging. On it's face, CERA claims not to promote racism, under the surface- it is simply teeming with it and seeks to take advantage of those who desire a country with United Citizens.

I ask this committee to seek policy that will ensure voting rights for people in rural tribal communities. Senator Fielder is not for all Montanans, and those she seeks to steal from need to be able to cast their votes.

State Tribal Relations Committee
October 21-22, 2015
EXHIBIT 31