

March 9, 2006

MT/WY Tribal Leaders
Billings, Montana

Dear Tribal Leaders:

We are submitting this letter and asking for your support in an endeavor to change the Federal Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. In April of 2004, we had an incident that happened here in Lodge Pole located on the south end of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation that involved our daughter and son-in-law. On October 24th and 25th they had a jury trial in Great Falls, Montana and they were found guilty of Felony First Degree Murder and on February 17, 2005 they were sentenced to life in prison, the maximum penalty for that crime. They are not eligible for parole and never will be because of the federal sentencing guidelines that are now in place.

The community of Lodge Pole knows that this was not an intentional act of murder but yet they were found guilty by a jury. The incident has affected the whole community and we all know that these young individuals do not deserve a life in prison. They were never officially arrested for the crime. They received their charges in the mail telling them what day they had to appear in court. They were out of their own recognizances clear up to the trial. They never had a criminal record nor served a day in jail before this all happened. We all felt that them being first time offenders, that they shouldn't have received a life in prison sentence. They fully cooperated with all investigations and procedures. They were just barely starting to live their lives. They were married in the Medicine Lodge in July 2005. They are good kids with caring hearts. They would never intentionally harm anyone.

Their court appointed lawyers are Anthony Gallagher and Mike Cotter of the Federal Public Defenders out of Great Falls, Montana. They have filed an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court on their behalf. We respectfully ask for your support in trying to get their sentence overturned.

Because of this case and others that are similar throughout Indian Country, we would like to see the Federal Sentencing Guidelines revised and made similar to the Montana State Sentencing Guidelines. We have many of our young Indian people doing maximum sentences and it shouldn't be that way. They should be given a second chance at life to prove themselves and become productive people in this world, if given the chance. If you should have any questions, please contact us at 406-673-3440 or 406-673-3905.

Sincerely,


Hannah Has Eagle "Mother"
HC63 Box 5205
Dodson, Montana 59524


Clyde Wing
"Father"


Kathleen Wing
"Aunt"

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE
MARCH 13, 2006 MEETING
EXHIBIT 9

March 9, 2005

MT/WY Tribal Leaders
Billings, Montana

Dear Tribal Leaders:

I am submitting this letter and asking for your support in an endeavor to change the Federal Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. My son, Travis Wing was convicted of Count I Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Count II Discharging a Firearm During a Crime of Violence. On March 25, 2004, he was sentenced to 161 months in federal prison, the maximum sentence for the crimes committed.

I know that Travis has to pay for the crimes that he committed but I also believe that 12 ½ years in prison is too harsh of a sentence. He lost his appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on October 17, 2004 and now it's too late to file an appeal to the Supreme Court. As it stands now, he will have to do all his time and will be out in August 2015. He has been incarcerated since June 2003.

There are a lot of issues involved in his case, jurisdiction being one of them. But no one wants to address them. I am respectfully asking for your support to change the Federal Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 to reinstate to parole system for those individuals incarcerated and hopefully Travis will be out sooner than expected. I firmly believe that if given a second chance at life that Travis will be a very productive individual. When we go to see him, he talks about how he wants to help our young people here on the Fort Belknap Reservation. That's his goal in life.

Your support will be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 406-673-3937.

Sincerely,



Jackie Wing

July 5, 2005

Senator Max Baucus
Attn: Kim Falcon
112 3RD St. North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Baucus:

On January 1, 2005 my 2 sons were involved in altercation with the family members of a police officer hired through the Cops Grant in Browning, on the Blackfeet Indian reservation. Both of my sons were treated at the Indian Health Hospital Emergency room, the oldest was severely beaten, with a boot mark in the middle of his forehead; he was stabbed three times in back of his head, two in the face, at least three stab wounds on his back, one puncturing his right lung, a deep laceration in his liver he spend four days in intensive care in Great Falls, needing stitches /staples in all lacerations, stitches in his right eye-lid, and blood transfusions. The younger one was severely beaten needing stitches in his head, very beaten around the head with a small laceration on his left wrist and right thigh. When I was notified they were in the Browning ER, I was not allowed to see or talk to them for about 2 two hours. We were allowed to see them when they were ready to transfer the oldest to Great Falls. We talked to an Officer Mike Augare, who told us a little of what happen. We went to Great Falls to be with our son.

1-7-2005- Talked to David SpottedEagle who told us he could not discuss the case. My oldest son went to speak to special agent Mike Wineman who took pictures, his clothes, etc, in the Browning emergency room told him that he would not discuss the case with him either.

May 2005-During this time my son's received summons for Blackfeet tribal Court against for allegedly stabbing my oldest son. She has still not showed up for court because the court authorities have cancelled it twice. She is supposedly living in Rocky Boy.

We have also talked to Tribal Prosecutor Mike Connely who stated "Charges were dropped in Tribal Court because of lack of evidence." Also stated "The BIA did not do their investigation." So there is no evidence that my sons were beaten and stabbed by this family. My sons were never interviewed by anyone.

My husband contacted Keith Beartusk who referred him to Matt Pryor Commander of the BIA in Browning who was always in a meeting or out of the office. His secretary referred him to Mike Halbert-Supervisor for the Browning Districts. He asked if there were charges pending against the members of this family. Mike Halbert said information was sent to the U.S. Attorneys office and they did not want to prosecute. Mike Halbert said to get hold of Bill Lacompt FBI in Browning. Bill Lacompt has been consistently out of town since this matter first surfaced.

My son's are now facing charges in Federal Court. I would like to get this matter looked into by some proper authorities that will look at it fairly and honestly. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

When you have received this please contact me as soon as possible. My husband or I can be reached at 1(406) 338-7231.

Senator Max Baucus
July 5, 2005
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Sincerely,

Steve and Irene Wing
P.O. Box 1594
Browning, MT 59417

cc: Bill Mercer, U.S. Attorney General
Peter Maybee, B.I.A. Law Enforcement
Mathew Pryor, B.I.A. District Commander
Mike Halbert, Supervisor for Browning District