



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

December 2, 2010

Representative Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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NCAT HEADQUARTERS

Re: Support for a *Carcieri* "Fix" in the Continuing Resolution

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I write on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians to thank you and congratulate you for the passage of the Cobell Settlement through Congress this week. With that passage there remains only a single top priority remaining for Indian Country in the 111th Congress. We urge your continued support for a legislative solution to the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, and your consideration to include this solution in any Continuing Resolution that is passed by the House in the 111th Congress. It is an urgent, unique, and anomalous priority that remains from this year's appropriations process, which will save taxpayers a great deal of money, and was unanimously included at the subcommittee level in the FY 2011 House Interior appropriations bill.

As you know, the 2009 Supreme Court opinion in *Carcieri* raises serious legal questions about long settled actions by the Department of Interior under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. *Carcieri* threatens tribal organizations, contracts and loans, tribal reservations and lands, and will negatively affect tribal and federal criminal jurisdiction, public safety and provision of services on reservations across the country. The *Carcieri* legislation has bi-partisan support, was unanimously included at the subcommittee level in the FY 2011 House Interior appropriations bill, and has been approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. With all of this progress, we greatly need the 111th Congress to pass the legislation. We may not get another chance, and without it, the federal government and Indian tribes will face harmful and needless litigation for many decades into the future.

There is wide agreement in Congress and among tribes that the *Carcieri* legislation is greatly needed and it is urgent that it be passed in the 111th Congress. We wish to highlight the singular importance of completing work on the *Carcieri* legislation this year. We thank you for your diligent efforts on behalf of Indian country on these and many other issues.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Keel
President