

# Conversation Contents

**NCAI Remarks**

**Attachments:**

/39. NCAI Remarks/1.1 Zinke NCAI remarks 6.13.17.docx

**"Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 12 2017 19:35:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Douglas Domenech <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>, James Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Williams, Timothy" <timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Roddy <russell\_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Moody <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>, "Boulton, Caroline" <caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** NCAI Remarks  
**Attachments:** Zinke NCAI remarks 6.13.17.docx

Hi All --

Instead of formal remarks, the Secretary asked that I give him 2 pages of bullets and topics/themes to jog his memory. They are attached. Please let me know if there's anything which should be omitted, or feel free to reach out to me in the am if you want to chat offline. I will be in the car for a few hours before I meet the plane at 8:30am in CT. My cell is below.  
Thanks,  
L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior*

**"Domenech, Douglas" <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** "Domenech, Douglas" <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 13 2017 07:46:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
James Cason <james\_cason@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "Williams, Timothy"

**CC:** <timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Roddy  
<russell\_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, Aaron Moody  
<aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>, "Boulton, Caroline"  
<caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NCAI Remarks

Based on this, it seems to me that these remarks need to respond to this..

### **Tribes Lash Out At Trump Administration For Lapses In Consultation.**

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/13) reports that the Trump Administration is "coming under heavy fire as the new leader of the Department of the Interior makes a highly-anticipated appearance before the nation's largest inter-tribal organization." The mid-year session of the National Congress of American Indians "doesn't officially start until Tuesday but tribes were out in full force for a pair of listening sessions hosted by Interior on Monday." According to the article, "one by one, they slammed the department for moving forward with a reorganization without providing guidance to the sovereign governments most affected."

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

On Mon, Jun 12, 2017 at 9:35 PM, Rigas, Laura <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi All --

Instead of formal remarks, the Secretary asked that I give him 2 pages of bullets and topics/themes to jog his memory. They are attached. Please let me know if there's anything which should be omitted, or feel free to reach out to me in the am if you want to chat offline. I will be in the car for a few hours before I meet the plane at 8:30am in CT. My cell is below.

Thanks,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior*

## **Remarks Prepared for Secretary Zinke National Congress of American Indians 6.13.17**

- Thank you! I'm pleased to join Tribal leaders from across the country today and I thank the National Congress of American Indians for your gracious invitation.
- I am proud to be an adopted member of the **Assiniboine Sioux Tribe** at the Fort Peck Reservation in Northeast Montana.
- Met with a number of tribal leaders and groups since being named Secretary of the Interior by President Trump...
- As a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Montanan, who grew up in a small rural community of Whitefish, I have had a lifelong interest in Indian Country issues. As a 20-year veteran and former Navy SEAL Commander...
- **SOVEREIGNTY** (567 Federally Recognized tribes)
  - This Administration fully supports “government-to-government” interactions between the Federal Government and Native American tribes and Alaskan Natives in decision-making processes.

- One of the priority goals of this Administration, especially at Interior, is to build a more collaborative approach to our work, with more consultation and input from local groups and communities, especially in Indian Country.
  - **UPHOLD TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES, not all tribes are the same. We want to cut red tape** to foster economic dynamism in whatever form you choose.
  - Let's collaborate on:
    - ***Infrastructure Development***
    - ***Energy Resources (energy dominance)***
    - ***Teddy Roosevelt – environmental protection***
    - ***Indian Education***
    - ***Bears Ears – announced interim report***
  - There are plenty of other issues I know we will grapple with during my tenure at Interior. I have plenty to learn. But with your assistance I remain optimistic that we can work together to foster stronger and more resilient Native communities.
  - I am here to listen, to help you accomplish your goals, and to move Indian Country forward
- THANK YOU & God Bless!** Happy to take questions.