



Walker River Paiute Tribe

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November 19, 2007

Senator Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: H.R. 2824

Dear Senator Reid:

The Walker River Paiute Tribe, supports the Cherokee Nation in their opposition to Bill H.R. 2824. From the earliest years of the Republic the Indian tribes have been recognized as "distinct, independent, political communities" (Worcester v. Georgia, 6 Pet. 515, 559), and, as such, qualified to exercise powers of self-government, not by virtue of any delegation of powers from the Federal Government, but rather by reason of their original tribal sovereignty. None of their powers have ever been extinguished. The Indian Reorganization Act, June 18, 1935 provides who may be a member of a tribe. First and foremost, members must meet the definition of "Indian". (Section 19)

In point it is immaterial whether the powers of an Indian tribe are expressed and exercised through customs handed down by word of mouth or through written constitutions and statutes. In either case the laws of the Indian tribe owe their force to the will of the members of the tribe as a sovereign nation. The Walker River Paiute Tribe supports the concept of sovereignty and support the opposition to Bill H.R. 2824.

Sincerely,

Genia Williams, Chairman
WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

cc: Senator John Ensign Fax: (202) 228-2193
Representative Shelly Berkley Fax: (202) 225-3119
Representative Dean Heller Fax: (202) 225-5679
Representative Jon Porter Fax: (202) 225-2185
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