

during his almost 40 years of service. He is to be congratulated for his effort on our behalf and I extend to him warm wishes for a wonderful retirement ahead.

Bob, in conclusion let me simply offer my personal thanks for a job well done.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2001*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, and 476 on December 5 and 6, 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 242, H.R. 3348, H. Con. Res. 102, H. Res. 298, H. Con. Res. 232, H. Con. Res. 280, the Motion, and H. Res. 305, respectively.

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NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

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SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in regard to H.R. 2538, the Native American Small Business Development Act, I would like to include in the RECORD the following letter I received from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

RED LAKE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS,

*Red Lake, MN, December 5, 2001.*

Re Inclusion of Native American Business Development Centers as Eligible to Apply for the Native American Small Business Development Act Funding (Advocacy)

Hon. BETTY McCOLLUM,  
*Western Avenue North, Suite 17,  
Saint Paul, MN.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN McCOLLUM: We appreciate your sponsoring the Native American Small Business Development Act (H.R. 2538) and the inclusion of Executive Order 13175—Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments in the bill.

The Upper and Lower Red Lakes form over one-third of the reservation's surface area. The Red Lake Reservation is home to members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The Red Lake Chippewa have lived on the shores of Red Lake since the early 1700s. The band reserved the Red Lake Indian Reservation when they ceded some 2.9 million Acres of surrounding lands to the United States in trust in 1889. An 11-member Tribal Council now governs the reservation.

As you know, Native American Business Development Centers, funded by the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) have delivered specialized business development services to the American Indian community since 1972. You may not know that in 2001, the forecast is that these centers, which will receive \$1,583,500 in funding, will generate \$118,305,884 in contracts and financing. This, by any economic measurement is an excellent return on the investment for the federal government.

There are eight Native American Business Development Centers nationwide staffed by Professional American Indian tribal members who understand cultural and economic barriers facing Indian communities (see attached listing). Native American Business Development Center's personnel focus solely on American Indian economic development and have the expertise to serve the unique needs of Indian tribal members.

Native American Business Development Centers deliver services required for successful work in Indian Country and include specialization in:

Government to government relationship between the federal Government and respec-

tive tribal governments (special programs and unique resources based on the relationship);

Histories of Indian tribes—as separate and independent political sovereign communities within the United States;

Tribal loan and grant programs for economic development;

Reservation trust land status and collateral financing issues associated with it;

The lack of infrastructure due to isolation and remoteness. Roads, sewers, electricity, telephone lines/Internet access (61% of reservation homes lack telephones/Internet access), plumbing; tribal business codes, tribal court systems and laws pertaining to economic development;

Utilization of Indian specific agency programs, such as the Department of Defense—Five Percent Indian Incentive for the use of Indian Subcontractors Program;

Indian Preferences under Subsection 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (1975), the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934, the Snyder Act of 1921, and the Buy Indian Act of 1910;

Cultural barriers (Native American Business Development Centers have successfully worked with tribal councils for over 30 years).

The MBDA and Small Business Administration when serving multiple populations created the Native American Business Development Centers to address unique cultural and economic problems and opportunities that were not addressed.

As you know, the 19th Century Indian preference statutes continue today with "Indian Preference" legislation—it is a continued recognition and respect of the federal government's commitment to honor treaties with Indian tribes and uphold the intent of the United States Constitution.

We respectfully request that you consider an amendment to your well-intended bill that would include Native American Business Development Centers as eligible (and ideally suited) to apply for the Native American Small Business Development Act funding.

Sincerely,

BOBBY WHITEFEATHER,  
*Chairman.*