

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
114th Congress Disclosure Form
As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)

Legislative Hearing on the following bills:

- **H.R. 329 (Young of AK)**, To amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes. *“Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015.”*
- **H.R. 521 (Young of AK)**, To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska
- **H.R. 812 (Simpson)**, To provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes. *“Indian Trust Asset Reform Act.”*

April 14, 2015

For Individuals:

Name:
Address:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

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For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

Name: Ernest Stensgar
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Business Address: 1827 NE 44th Ave #130, Portland, OR 97213
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.

(NONE)

3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the

organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

(NONE)



COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

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Ernest Louis Stensgar

Ernie Stensgar was born and raised on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. He has served on the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council since 1984. From 1986-2004 Ernie served as the Chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council and is currently serving as Vice-Chairman. Ernie Stensgar has served as the President of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI), Vice-Chairman of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and Chairman of the Alliance of Idaho Tribes.

Ernie's leadership qualities—his honesty, good judgment, and courage have made him a trusted leader in Indian Country. He is well known and well respected among federal and state elected officials, who seek his counsel and advice on important issues in the State Legislature and Halls of Congress. He was in the forefront of Idaho Tribes' efforts—ultimately successful in 2002—to maintain their gaming operations and has been a tireless fighter against state taxation of tribal businesses in Idaho, battles the tribe has also won. He understands the importance of Tribal unity on issues that affect all Tribes, and has been a leader who can unite and inspire Tribes to reach common goals.

When the Department of Interior announced the creation of the "Bureau of Trust Assets Management" or BITAM in November of 2001, Ernie along with other tribal leaders to represent them on the "Tribal Leads Task Force" organized to advise Interior reorganization of the BIA. Ernie has since been a leader of Tribal opposition to the reorganization, and continues to speak out against this attempt to dismantle the Bureau and limit the federal government's trust responsibilities to the Tribes.

Ernie is the first tribal leader to be listed among Idaho's 100 most influential people. He is the first tribal leader named to the Idaho Hall of Fame. He is the first tribal leader to be honored with the prestigious Bayard Rustin Award, given to individuals who make a dramatic impact on the advancement of human rights. He was also the first tribal leader to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Spokane Washington's Gonzaga University.

In 1986, when Ernie was elected Chairman of his Tribal Council, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe employed fewer than 75 people. Today, it provides jobs to some 1,400, is the second largest employer in north Idaho and one of the largest in the Inland Northwest. The tribe's economic impact on the region approaches \$100 million annually. Under Chairman Stensgars direction, the tribe invests its dollars directly back into the region, creating new industry, new jobs, contributions of millions of dollars to tribal and public education, and increased funding for vital tribal programs.

The recent opening of Tribe's Circling Raven Golf Club has transformed the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel from a tiny bingo hall to a full destination resort, one of the finest in the Northwest.

The tribe's Benewah Medical Center, opening in 1990, has grown to become a national model for both Indian and rural health care. It represents the first time in U.S. history that an Indian tribe become a health care provider for the non-Indian public. The BMC now serves over 10,000 patients in the region.

In his own words, Ernie Stensgar is a Reservation Indian, born and raised. He first left the reservation to attend Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma, graduating in 1965. Ernie joined the United States Marine Corps immediately after Chilocco, serving in Vietnam. He was seriously wounded in combat in 1967 and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Ernie has also served as a member of the Tribal School Board, Co-Chairman for the Idaho Centennial Committee and in many other public service positions. Ernie currently serves as the Commander of the Joseph R. Garry American Legion Post #5 in Plummer, Idaho as well as the District Commander. He created the Coeur d'Alene Warrior Society, made up of veterans on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

Ernie Stensgar has five adult children: Carol, Laura, Matt, Shirley and Reno. He has 27 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.