

## Carcieri Fix Update.

The Congress has adjourned for the Summer recess, but USET's work continues in order to ensure that when the Congress reconvenes in early September that the Carcieri Fix legislation is included in a legislative vehicle that passes both the House and the Senate and reaches President Obama's desk.

A key element to that effort is continuing to emphasize the central importance of the Carcieri Fix to tribal sovereignty and the trust responsibility, economic growth and the general well-being of Native nations. The Carcieri Fix conference in DC, organized in coordination with NCAI and under the leadership of the USET Carcieri Taskforce Chairman Earl Barbry, as well as Taskforce members Chairman Cromwell, Chairwoman Andrews-Maltais, Chairman Rolin and Council Member Hiawatha Brown, has led to a number of new cosponsors, including 10 new cosponsors for the principal House legislation (HR 3742), and three for the Senate legislation (S. 1703).

This surge of cosponsors is directly related to the wave of tribal leaders who pressed Congress in unison that week. For example, the Maine tribes can count as among their successes the addition of a Maine congressman as a cosponsor; the Florida tribes can count a congressman and a Republican Senator (as the first Republican in the Senate to join as a co-sponsor, which helps us to position this legislation as not a partisan matter, but a simple matter of fairness, justice and smart policy); the Massachusetts tribes help secure sponsorship from Congressman Delahunt and Senator John Kerry, and the Mashpee Wampanoag's secured the support of the general president of the Plumbing and Pipefitters Union, William Hite, who has written President Obama emphasizing the importance of the Carcieri fix for promoting American Indian self-determination. In a period when jobs are the number one issue, union support is helpful with both Democrats and Republicans. The Catawbas and Poarch Creek met with the House Minority Whip Clyburn, securing tremendous support from that key leadership post. The Narragansett made our most critical point - which was telling how the simple desire to provide housing for their people led to the Carcieri decision and that correcting that holding is a moral and policy imperative. And other USET tribes, such as the Mohegans, Pequots, Mississippi Choctaw and the Poarch Creek lent a great deal of resource to the effort - providing critical punching power. The New York and Louisiana tribes secured important early sponsors for the Carcieri Fix legislation and provided energetic advocacy in DC, as has USET's sole Texas tribe. The point of this long list of accolades to all the USET tribes is that through implementation of the USET motto there has been positive change and progress in DC. Not that we can rest on these accomplishments - the opposition is already picking up its game (see the recent Sacramento Bee editorial at the end of this email update opposing the Carcieri Fix - forwarded to USET by Poarch Creek).

The DC advocacy effort has also included President Patterson following up with Laura Davis, the Associate Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior, about DOI pushing the Congressional leadership even harder to secure passage of the Carcieri Fix. She assured that this was a priority of Interior and that they were reaching out.

The inter-tribal organization letter in support of a Carcieri-fix now boasts 18 signatures, and we are hopeful about adding more.

Although Washington becomes a quiet town in mid-August, with the Members of Congress at home, it is important to remember that they are in campaign-mode. This will be another historic election, with the outcome already declared by many to be a verdict on the Obama agenda and the Obama presidency. As even a few months is a life-time in politics this probably won't be a verdict on the Obama presidency - that will come in two years - but it will be a test of America's mood during a period of sustained economic recession. One of the outcomes of this election could be a Congress that is more hostile to Indian country interests. Therefore, it remains critical that USET continue its vigorous efforts and that each USET tribe and all the tribal leaders, who made such a difference during the DC conference, stay actively involved.

Every member of the House of Representatives is up for reelection, and also one-third of the Senate. Please take advantage of this opportunity to catch with them either by scheduling a meeting or attending an event and urging them to assure the passage of Carcieri-Fix legislation. Set forth below are the three Carcieri fix bills (two in the house, one in the Senate), with the current co-sponsors. You can thank members who are cosponsors - but still urge them to push for action, as well as urge non-sponsors to get on board. When the train wreck occurs at the end of this Congress, and bills start being mashed together, and some provisions are kept and others are tossed, the Carcieri Fix will survive only if we continue to make it important to Congressional leaders.

#### **Carcieri Fix Legislation:**

-

#### **H.R.3742**

Title: To amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

Sponsor: Rep Kildee, Dale E. [MI-5] (introduced 10/7/2009)    Cosponsors (42)

Related Bills: H.R.3697, S.1703

Latest Major Action: 11/4/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee Hearings Held.

COSPONSORS(42), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]:    (Sort: by date)

Rep Baca, Joe [CA-43] - 10/8/2009

Rep Becerra, Xavier [CA-31] - 10/29/2009

Rep Bishop, Timothy H. [NY-1] - 2/22/2010

Rep Blumenauer, Earl [OR-3] - 7/30/2010

Rep Boren, Dan [OK-2] - 10/8/2009

Rep Chandler, Ben [KY-6] - 1/13/2010

Rep Christensen, Donna M. [VI] - 10/14/2009

Rep Cole, Tom [OK-4] - 10/14/2009

Rep Delahunt, Bill [MA-10] - 7/28/2010

Rep Diaz-Balart, Lincoln [FL-21] - 7/15/2010  
Rep Faleomavaega, Eni F.H. [AS] - 10/14/2009

Rep Griffith, Parker [AL-5] - 7/20/2010  
Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] - 10/8/2009

Rep Heinrich, Martin [NM-1] - 10/8/2009  
Rep Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie [SD] - 10/14/2009

Rep Honda, Michael M. [CA-15] - 10/8/2009  
Rep Inslee, Jay [WA-1] - 10/8/2009

Rep Kirkpatrick, Ann [AZ-1] - 10/29/2009  
Rep Kline, John [MN-2] - 1/13/2010

Rep Kucinich, Dennis J. [OH-10] - 7/13/2010  
Rep Larsen, Rick [WA-2] - 10/29/2009

Rep Lujan, Ben Ray [NM-3] - 10/29/2009  
Rep Lynch, Stephen F. [MA-9] - 7/28/2010

Rep Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14] - 3/4/2010  
Rep McCollum, Betty [MN-4] - 10/8/2009

Rep Melancon, Charlie [LA-3] - 11/3/2009  
Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] - 7/20/2010

Rep Moran, James P. [VA-8] - 7/13/2010  
Rep Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-38] - 10/8/2009

Rep Pallone, Frank, Jr. [NJ-6] - 11/3/2009  
Rep Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10] - 1/13/2010

Rep Pingree, Chellie [ME-1] - 7/20/2010  
Rep Pomeroy, Earl [ND] - 10/14/2009

Rep Quigley, Mike [IL-5] - 10/14/2009  
Rep Rehberg, Denny [MT] - 7/20/2010

Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] - 10/14/2009  
Rep Salazar, John T. [CO-3] - 7/20/2010

Rep Schauer, Mark H. [MI-7] - 1/13/2010  
Rep Shuler, Heath [NC-11] - 10/8/2009

Rep Simpson, Michael K. [ID-2] - 3/4/2010  
Rep Stupak, Bart [MI-1] - 10/8/2009

Rep Wu, David [OR-1] - 11/3/2009

### **H.R.3697**

Title: To amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

Sponsor: Rep Cole, Tom [OK-4] (introduced 10/1/2009)    Cosponsors (9)

Related Bills: H.R.3742, S.1703

Latest Major Action: 11/4/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee Hearings Held.

COSPONSORS(9), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]:    (Sort: by date)

Rep Alexander, Rodney [LA-5] - 7/19/2010 Rep Boren, Dan [OK-2] - 10/8/2009

Rep Christensen, Donna M. [VI] - 7/29/2010 Rep Griffith, Parker [AL-5] - 7/20/2010

Rep Issa, Darrell E. [CA-49] - 12/3/2009 Rep Kildee, Dale E. [MI-5] - 12/3/2009

Rep Kline, John [MN-2] - 12/3/2009 Rep Rehberg, Denny [MT] - 7/21/2010

Rep Simpson, Michael K. [ID-2] - 3/3/2010

### **S.1703**

Title: A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

Sponsor: Sen Dorgan, Byron L. [ND] (introduced 9/24/2009)    Cosponsors (10)

Related Bills: H.R.3697, H.R.3742

Latest Major Action: 8/5/2010 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 515.

Senate Reports: 111-247

COSPONSORS(10), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]:    (Sort: by date)

Sen Akaka, Daniel K. [HI] - 9/24/2009

Sen Baucus, Max [MT] - 9/24/2009

Sen Bingaman, Jeff [NM] - 9/24/2009

Sen Franken, Al [MN] - 9/24/2009

Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] - 9/24/2009

Sen Landrieu, Mary L. [LA] - 10/29/2009

Sen LeMieux, George S. [FL] - 8/3/2010

Sen Stabenow, Debbie [MI] - 7/20/2010

Sen Tester, Jon [MT] - 9/24/2009

Sen Udall, Tom [NM] - 9/24/2009

