

National Congress of the American Indian
Phoenix, Arizona
October 9-15, 2016

I attended this conference as a representative of the Tribe. I attended all General Assemblies, seven in total. The assemblies contained such things as the reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as votes for NCAI's governance and resolutions.

The first breakout session I attended was *Seeding Prosperity: Strategic Considerations for Building Sustainable Tribal Economies*. They covered different Native communities and how they grew, and maintained, their economies. I brought up the Transition Town movement that began in England as a sustainable community model. The next session I attended was the *STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Initiative for Indian Country: Developing a Tribal Workforce for the Future*. This session focused on the ever-changing STEM industries and the importance of encouraging citizens, especially youth, to explore training and education in those fields. These industries have a growing demand that can not be met by currently enrollment. Students going in to these fields would have job prospects in a competitive market. I also went to the *Listening Session on Tribal Consultation and Input into Infrastructure Decision - Administration's Response to Issues Raised by DAPL*. Many leaders spoke on the troubles that their individual tribes are facing. The Sault Ste Marie Tribe spoke about concerns with Line 5. Vice Chair Stella Kay did a wonderful job speaking about Line 5 as well. I spoke in regards to needing to be at the table for decisions on infrastructure and the importance of having the decision makers on the other side instead of their proxies. We also need to be a part of the conversation before a decision is reached. I also stressed the importance of being a part of discussions regarding the Great Lakes and a concern that the Governor of Michigan does not have the tribes' best interests in mind.

I also attended the Youth Honoring Luncheon and the Elders Honoring Luncheon. I walked around the Marketplace, which is the NCAI's version of an expo or trade show. I attended the area caucus meetings each morning, where we primarily discussed oil pipelines 3, 5 & 6 and their dangers to the Great Lakes and Native American communities. John McCain was one of the speakers at the event. He talked about the progress of the Native community in the past ten years and where we need to go in the future.

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