



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

Hon. Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Tribe and Coalition of Large Tribes

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twenty-Third Session

Item 3

Discussion on the theme “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth”

April 16, 2024

Greetings. My name is Marvin Weatherwax and I am a Tribal Councilman serving on the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, and the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council.

I serve as Chairman of the Coalition of Large Tribes, representing more than 50 tribes with reservations of 100,000 acres or more, governing more than 95% of Indian Country and serving approximately one million Native American citizens.

Thank you to the United Nations for the opportunity to address focusing on the voices of Indigenous youth.



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

The United States Department of Justice repeatedly fails to protect our Tribal youth in egregious violation of the government’s Treaty and Trust duties, and in violation of Articles 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 37 of the Declaration.

Some examples are: denials of water rights, crises of public safety including the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis and in the crisis of cartels pushing fentanyl on our reservations. The DOJ also continually argues the U.S. may completely destroy sacred sites to allow copper mining at Oak Flat, the epicenter of Apache religion; and DOJ continues to risk pollution of fresh water by tolerating the continuing trespass of Enbridge’s Line 5.

Discovery of remains of Indian boarding school victims, and reporting of widespread abuse, demonstrates the need for colonizers to acknowledge and address the cultural genocide and intergenerational trauma caused by their actions. Our youth feel this pain every day, the loss of our language and culture stolen from our people by the United States and churches.

On my own Blackfeet Reservation, our youth faced the atrocities of Indian Health Service Provider Dr. Stanley Weber, who was found guilty of committing



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

sexual assault upon four known victims on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Upon learning of numerous complaints and concerns of Dr. Weber, IHS transferred Dr. Weber from Browning, MT to Pine Ridge South Dakota, where he continued to prey upon young boys and committed more sexual assaults. And in the years since, the current federal Administration tried to evade helping our youth with the promised construction of a youth center to give them a safe space to heal and to immerse themselves in our healing language and culture. I thank our Congressman Ryan Zinke for stepping up to make this right for our youth, leading a recent successful effort to secure \$20 million for a new youth center.

Thank you.