

Prepared Statement of Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Vice Chairman - Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Joint Hearing: Indian Affairs and Small Business Committees

“On Native Small Business Development: Is the U.S. Meeting Its Obligations?”

April 30, 2002

Thank you Mr. Chairman for scheduling today’s hearing on Federal activities and involvement with Native American small business development.

I appreciate the aims of the legislation before us today to help spur small business and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit Native American communities in the United States.

Like any American community, small businesses in Native American communities are the backbone of the local economies. With due respect to large American firms and the jobs and tax revenues they generate, it is the small firms — the family construction companies, the small insurance agency, and the small software developer — that create the bulk of jobs in America and that is what economic development is all about.

I appreciate the intentions behind S.2335, but before I lend my support to this legislation, Mr. Chairman, I am interested in knowing how this legislation will interact with the existing programs and services at the Small Business Administration as well as the Commerce Department, and whether we will be aiding Indian entrepreneurs with the enactment of this kind of legislation.

With that, I thank you Mr. Chairman and look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

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