

**Prepared Statement of Ben Nighthorse Campbell  
Vice Chairman - Committee on Indian Affairs  
Oversight Hearing on the Report of the Secretary of Interior  
On the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act of 1988  
August 1, 2002**

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Good morning.

Today the Committee will receive testimony on the March, 2002, Report of the Secretary of Interior on the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act of 1988.

The story of the American Indian in the State of California is one of the most gruesome and bloody chapters in the long history of Native people in this country.

From outright genocide following the “Gold Rush” of the 1840s through the creation of largely artificial reservations and homelands for the California Tribes, Federal policy toward California Indians has not always been something to be proud of.

The history of the Hoopas and Yuroks — and of the attempts by the U.S. over the years to get involved and remedy past wrongs — is not over yet.

After much acrimonious litigation that went all the way to the Supreme Court and years of Congressional involvement, the Secretary’s Report was delivered to Congress in March, 2002.

In the Report, the Secretary makes five recommendations regarding the distribution of funding and structure of the Settlement Fund, and urges that, in the end the proper outcome is for the Congress, the two tribes, and the Department to work together to develop a “new mechanism” for future uses of the Settlement Fund.

Rather than comment on the details of the Report, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit the

remainder of my remarks for the Record and just say how much I look forward to hearing from our witnesses, especially from Chairwoman Masten and Chairman Marshall on their perspectives on how these issues can be resolved.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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