

**Statement of Ben Nighthorse Campbell**  
**Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs**  
**Hearing on Good Governance and Economic Development**  
**July 18, 2001**

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Good morning and welcome to the Committee on Indian Affairs hearing on “Good Governance Practices and Their Impact on Tribal Economic Development.”

The statistics on Indian communities are horrific: unemployment around 50%; crowded housing; poor educational achievement; ill health; and associated social problems like alcohol and drug abuse.

In my mind and in my experience there is no more pressing matter confronting the tribes than building Indian economies that are strong and sustainable into the future.

Achieving this goal involves many different factors like physical infrastructure; human capital and skill development; financial resources; and a host of others.

In addition to these building blocks, it is increasingly apparent that the kind of “Governing Environment” that a tribe has in place will determine whether or not businesses will prosper and jobs and income will flow.

The problems with undeveloped economies do not all originate in Washington, D.C. I believe tribal leadership has a difficult but critical role in making sure their tribe has done all that it can to create business-friendly environments. Some tribal leaders have done so and we will hear from several of them today on what Good Governance means.

By “Good Governance” I mean:

1. Stable institutions with Administrative Capacity;
2. Fair and Effective Dispute Resolution;
3. A Separation of Politics from Business Management; and
4. Transparency in Government Activities.

Today I look forward to hearing from Indian tribal leaders, researchers, and others about what “Good Governance” means and how it affects the ability of tribes to attract and retain economic activity and the benefits that come from that activity.

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