

OPENING STATEMENT
OF
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
VICE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE
FEBRUARY 12, 2003
HEARING
ON THE
NOMINATION
BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF
ROSS O. SWIMMER
TO SERVE AS
SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS
IN THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to join you in welcoming our colleagues from Oklahoma – the senior Senator from the State of Oklahoma, Senator Don Nickles, and a distinguished member of this Committee, Senator Jim Inhofe, as we meet today to consider the President’s nomination of Mr. Ross Swimmer to serve as the Special Trustee for American Indians in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I also want to join the Chairman in welcoming Ross Swimmer to

the Committee today.

Over the years the Committee has worked with Mr. Swimmer on a variety of issues and we look forward to receiving his testimony today.