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Geoffrey M. Standing Bear
Principal Chief

Osage Nation

Office of the Principal Chief



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Raymond Red Corn
Assistant Principal Chief

EXECUTIVE VETO MESSAGE

April 20, 2016

To the Honorable Maria Whitehorn, Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress and Members of the 4th Osage Nation Congress:

I hereby transmit pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of Article VII and Section 14 of Article VI of the Osage Nation Constitution my objection to ONCA 16-26, entitled:

“An Act to authorize and appropriate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the Burial Assistance Fund; and to establish an alternate effective date”.

There is no rational reason to place \$500,000 into a fund on October 1, 2016 when the fund is expected to have left over money from the previous fiscal year and when the estimated need for the fund has not yet been determined in conformance with this Administration’s normal planning process. No Member of the Congress ever consulted with my office on this appropriation.

I have already shared with this 4th Osage Congress the report of Osage Nation Treasurer Callie Catcher which says that the Burial Assistance Fund is fully funded for this fiscal year and there should be funds left over from this year to carry forward into next fiscal year! I veto this legislation because it is poorly conceived and enacted without consultation with the Executive Branch which administers the program.

The exact quote (which I have placed in bold type) from the Osage Treasurer’s March 20, 2016 Memorandum is:

“Burial Assistance Fund- Balance as of 3/18/16 - \$339,476. Below is a summary of expenditures by fiscal years:

FY2013 - \$271,441

FY2014 - \$442,024

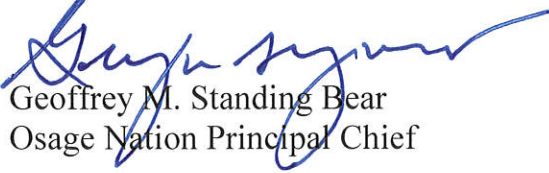
FY2015 - \$419,213

FY2016 - \$110,524

Based on the level of expenditures from this fund, the balance should be sufficient for the remainder of FY2016. The FY2016 appropriation was \$450,000 and expenditures through March 17 from the 2016 appropriation were \$110,524. Future expenditures from the fund is difficult to forecast; however, based on current trends, there should be sufficient funds for FY16 and some carry over into FY17”.

Based upon these objections and justifications, I hereby veto this bill.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey M. Standing Bear
Osage Nation Principal Chief

GMS/sld