

## Northern Arapaho Business Council

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September 9, 2014



Dear Members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe,

The Northern Arapaho Business Council (NABC) today dissolved the Shoshone and Arapaho Joint Business Council (JBC). It is now the policy of the Northern Arapaho Tribe (NAT) to cooperate with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe (EST) through existing committees or other methods.

This is a proud and historic moment for our Tribe. Eliminating the JBC is a big step toward greater self-government and independence, something the NAT has been working toward for many years.

The JBC was never part of our traditional tribal government. It was created by the federal government for its own convenience. Neither Tribe's General Council approved the JBC. For decades, the JBC has hobbled both tribal governments, created barriers to development, and wasted time that could have been spent on Northern Arapaho issues.

Outsiders used the JBC against the Tribes. For example, some federal agencies used the JBC like the federal government once used the historic treaty councils, to restrict the flow of information to tribal leaders and use internal disagreements and other questionable methods to gain advantage over tribes.

The NAT worked patiently to make this broken system to work. But after more than half a century of JBC dysfunction, the NABC voted to move forward as the sovereign government that it is.

Dissolution of the JBC should take no one by surprise. The Tribe moved its headquarters from Ft. Washakie to Ethete in 1989, established its own housing department in 1996, and established gaming and gaming laws separately from the EST. Removing the yoke of the JBC is just the latest step in a long march toward greater independence and self-government.

Most tribal members will notice little difference in day-to-day government function, except perhaps quicker responses to homesite lease requests and other matters that frequently got stuck in JBC. Joint tribal programs will function with oversight from joint committees and approval from each Business Council.

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The change will have little impact on federal matters, including the Tribes' application for "Treatment as a State" (TAS) under the Clean Air Act. But perhaps the congressional delegation will stop asking, "Where is the JBC?" when Northern Arapaho leaders request a meeting in private.

Ultimately, the dissolution of JBC will send a powerful message of tribal sovereignty to the federal and state governments. It will improve our chances of success in the future. This is an important moment in Northern Arapaho history. It is a time to celebrate, and to honor the wisdom and hard work of our forebears who made this possible.

Sincerely,



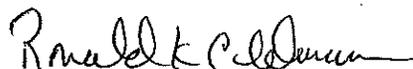
Darrell O'Neal, Sr., Chairman



Anthony Addison, Sr., Member



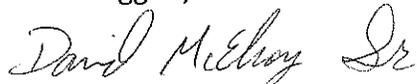
Willard Gould, Member



Ronald K. Oldman, Co-Chairman



Dean Goggles, Member



David McElroy, Sr., Member