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**SENATE HEARINGS ON HOMECOMING PROJECT MARK TRIBES' MUCH
DESERVED AND LONG AWAITED VOICE**

Tribes' Summons to Washington Signals Beginning of Settlement Dialogue

Concho, OK & Golden, CO (September 3, 2004) – Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma together with the Native American Land Group (“NALG”) announced they are poised and ready to begin settlement dialogue with the Federal Government through the Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearings on the Homecoming Project of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and the Tribes' Settlement Proposal to the U.S. and Colorado. They also welcome the opportunity to hear personally from Governor Owens why he has yet to acknowledge the tribe or engage in settlement dialogue when the Federal Government clearly views its importance. The hearings will be held in Washington D.C. and are scheduled for September 8, 2004 at 11:00 A.M. in the Murray Office Building.

“Many of us have waited our whole lives for this,” said Bill Blind, of the Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma. “This is a day when Congress wants to hear from us about our Colorado land and a settlement proposal that will make a dynamic difference in the destiny of our people.”

Bill Blind and Darrell Flyingman are scheduled to testify on behalf of the Tribes. Steve Hillard will speak on behalf of the Native American Lands Group. The hearings signify the Federal government's desire to fully understand the Tribes' settlement proposal.

“We appreciate the efforts of Congress to deal fairly with these issues and to assist in initiating a settlement dialogue that will go on with or without the State. Rejection of settlement by the Governor only means the state is giving up its seat at the table. Tribal claims are matters of national responsibility and interest, and this federal process will go forward. At a time of chronic budget crisis and a slow economy the Governor is throwing away \$1 Billion dollars, over 5000 jobs, and gambling with clear title for a million Colorado homeowners,” continued Hillard.

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“Given our Colorado history, we certainly deserve more respect from the State,” said Darrell Flyingman of the Cheyenne and Arapaho of Oklahoma. “He can’t dispute that we were massacred and run-off from our land...land we still have rights to. We firmly believe the people of the state are sympathetic to our cause, and that we will prevail with a reasonable settlement!”

The Homecoming Project is an initiative to return the Tribes to a meaningful economic and cultural presence on their ancestral lands in Colorado. The Tribes have hired as developer the Native American Land Group, a partnership led by 13,500 Alaskan Natives. Together, the Tribes and the NALG presented a Settlement Proposal, which offers a full resolution of the Tribes claims on 27 million acres of Colorado at no cost to taxpayers, \$1 billion for education and child welfare programs in Colorado, a privately-funded \$ 300 million casino and Plains Indian Cultural Center, and over 5500 new jobs. A statewide survey conducted by Ciruli & Associates shows 61% of Coloradoans think Colorado’s politicians should give “serious consideration” to the Settlement Proposal, and 58% of those surveyed supporting the idea of a settlement including a 500-acre reservation on which the Tribes may operate a casino.

Broadcast stations interested in covering the event should call the Senate Radio and Television Gallery for credentials and access at 202-224-6421. Print reporters should contact the Senate Press Gallery at 202-224-0241. All credentials and hearing room access should be confirmed no later than 5:00 PM September 7, 2004. Further information including supporting documents and other resources are available at www.homecomingproject.org/news.

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