

# Citizens Equal Rights Alliance

MANY CULTURES  ONE PEOPLE ONE LAW

May 15, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

The enclosed letter and CERA Fact Sheet has been sent to members of the Judiciary Committees. The issue of putting land in trust and under the control of Indian tribes has enormous ramifications to the economic, health and social fabric of our great nation. We respectfully request that you also conduct a thorough investigation before allowing current regulations to be altered allowing easier transfers of land to trust.

The Federal Government has been actively recognizing new tribes and reservations and transferring fee land to trust. These actions have serious, long term consequences for individuals, communities, states and the Federal Government. One of the most severe is the potential loss of state and federal constitutional rights for individuals. This problem was concisely referred to by the Ninth Court of Appeals when they said:

“This holding is consistent with other judicial decisions finding the Constitution inapplicable to Indian tribes, Indian courts and Indians on the reservation.”  
533 F.2d 1101, 1102-03 (9th Cir. 1976).

We also request that members of the CERA board of directors be contacted for your investigation. We are in contact with tribal members, non-members and lawyers who are experts on this issue and would like to provide information for your investigation.

Sincerely,

Howard B. Hanson

Enclosures:  
CERA Fact Sheet  
Letter to Senator Orrin Hatch  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Letter to Attorney General Ashcroft

Copies to:  
The Congress  
The Secretaries of the Administration  
The Governors and Attorney Generals of the Fifty States  
The Media

