

FOR PRESS REALEASE

NOVEMBER 16, 2009

The Members of Congress listed as parties in case number CIV 09-10 do not believe a violation of the Open Meetings Act occurred for two reasons. First, the bills that were up for amendment, ONCA 09-66 and ONCA 09-63, were not the property of any committee or in the control of any committee. Both pieces of legislation were on General Order, which means they were the property of the entire body of Congress, not an individual committee. The committees had no ability to act on either piece of legislation because they were in the possession of the entire body of Congress on General Order. Second, there was no quorum of the body of Congress because it takes eight members of Congress to create a quorum. If there was no quorum of the public body that had control over the legislation, then there was no violation.

Nevertheless, the committees have held public meetings to discuss and approve the discussion that allegedly violated the Act as provided for in Section 11(B) of the Open Meetings Act. In so doing, we have nullified the alleged violation as allowed by law. All of this has been done in an effort to stop wasting the Nation's money on senseless lawsuits and the legal fees that follow. Since any alleged violation has now been corrected in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, there is no reason for Chief Gray to continue to pursue this lawsuit. It is our hope that the Chief will realize any continuance of this lawsuit is simply a waste of the Osage People's money.