

Bunny McBride, 3301 Buffalo, Manhattan, KS 66503

26 December 2001

Dear Donna:

Taking a brief break from family to jot you this note about your legislative diary, which I finished going over while flying to Vermont.

I think it's terrific that you disciplined yourself to keep this record. As far as I know you're the first tribal rep to do so, and I think your words will be of great help to future reps as well as an interesting read for others.

Given your plan to polish the text enough to send it off to a publisher, I've penciled in some edits right on your manuscript. Altho' I read the entire thing, I didn't have time to offer edits throughout, but I'm hoping that the notations I did make inspire you to fine tune the entire piece before sending it off. As a writing teacher once told me, "Never send an article out until you've polished it as much as you're able, for you'll never have a second chance to make a good first impression on an editor."

In addition to the specific comments I've written on the manuscript, here are a few things to keep in mind as you make your final revision:

- Double space between lines
- Indent each new paragraph
- When you make more than one entry on a particular day, leave an extra line space to indicate that
- Make your headings consistent—i.e. date, day, time
- The first time you mention an organization or bill, such as the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, write it out in full and note its abbreviation in parentheses, as follows: Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA). Thereafter, within the same entry, you can use the initials.
- Follow above rule for individuals: The first time you mention them, give their full name and title/i.d. Thereafter, within the same entry, you can go with a shorter version. For example: Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative Donald Soctomah at first mention, and Donald or Rep. Soctomah thereafter.
- When you first mention a bill, be sure to give its official name and to make clear what it's about. I suggest that when you first mention a bill, you type it in **bold** so readers unfamiliar with the issues can flip back and easily relocate the introductory info about it when they run across it in subsequent diary entries.
- As I wrote in the margins of your intro, I think it would be really helpful to insert a paragraph noting the historic legislation covered in the diary to give readers a sense of what's coming. After all, during the time span of your writing, some remarkably important issues came to the fore—from the Offensive Names bill to

the Year of the Native American Women to the Maine Indian History and Culture
Education bill—and in large part because of your effort!

Gotta go. Talk with you when I get back.

All best,

Bunny