



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Government Center

**Testimony re: HB 2437
Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
Presented by Steve Ortiz
on behalf of the
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
March 15, 2012**

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Steve Ortiz, Chairman of the Tribal Council of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As you may know, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is one of four federally recognized Indian tribes in the state of Kansas.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation supports House Bill 2437, because it provides recognition of the tribal identification card as a valid form of photo id. The original enactment of the bill provided for recognition of tribal identification as proof of citizenship but the tribal identification card was omitted from the section regarding forms of photo id. Representative Ponka-We Victors, a Native American member of the House and Chris Howell, Tribal Liaison for the State of Kansas, worked with our tribe and the other Kansas tribes to address this oversight. The House Elections committee has amended House Bill 2437 to add the identification card of a federally recognized Indian tribe to the list of valid photo id's. The recognition of tribal identification cards is important to Indian tribes as a piece of the government to government relationship that the State of Kansas has with the Kansas tribal governments.

Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and our support of this amended version of House Bill 2437. I will be happy to answer questions.