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# NABC management reforms will proceed despite SBC refusal to move beyond JBC

The Northern Arapaho Business Council (NABC) affirmed its commitment to maintain and improve Arapaho-Shoshone programs without the former joint powers board known as the JBC, even as the Shoshone Business Council (SBC) today insisted it is holding JBC meetings and running cooperative programs without input from the Arapaho Tribe.

“The idea that SBC could take over Arapaho interests and make decisions for both Tribes in pretend JBC meetings really is troubling to me,” NABC Chairman Darrell O’Neal, Sr., said.

The NABC withdrew from the joint powers board on September 9. It agreed to manage Arapaho-Shoshone assets and programs by separate approval from each Business Council rather than voting together in the JBC. Apparently struggling to make that adjustment, the SBC today issued a statement refusing to acknowledge that the JBC no longer exists.

“We understand that some Shoshone officials and their advisors are in denial about these reforms, and are going to need some time,” NABC Co-Chairman Ronald K. Oldman said. “We’ve had more positive feedback from other Shoshone leaders who acknowledge the need for change and room for improvement.”

SBC also asserted Tuesday that NABC cannot withdraw from the JBC unless the Shoshone Tribe agrees. This is also an odd suggestion since it would allow one Tribe to assert sovereignty over the other, which cannot be the case. The Tribes are separate sovereigns, even if the SBC is under the impression they were somehow combined in JBC, according to the NABC.

“Our leaders have never surrendered Arapaho sovereignty to the JBC,” Co-Chairman Oldman said. “Ironically, the Shoshone reaction to the dissolution highlights one of the central problems with the former JBC—it hampered Arapaho people in speaking with their own voice.”

SBC insists that the Arapaho Tribe has somehow “relinquished” its management authority over co-owned tribal resources and programs. This notion is bizarre. The NABC did not relinquish its management authority over cooperative resources by leaving the JBC. The Tribe merely changed the *way* it manages those assets. Federal law does not permit the EST to manage cooperative programs by fiat, so this scare tactic should be ignored, the NABC said.

“Arapaho tribal members are tired of being treated like second-class citizens,” added Councilman Dean Goggles. “We’ve got a right to use the tools of self-determination to build a brighter future. We’re not going to let people who oppose this hold us back.”

Most troubling was the SBC message that it will not support cooperative programs like the Shoshone & Arapaho Tribal Court. Last week, the NABC approved resolutions to continue seven cooperative programs, but the EST has failed to do the same.

“The people will recognize this for what it is,” NABC Councilman Ron McElroy, Sr, said. “If people lose jobs, if critical government services shut down, that’s on the SBC. The Northern Arapaho Tribe has already approved those programs.”