



# NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

P. O. Box 1424  
New Town, ND 58763

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MHA Nation

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Dine' Nation

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#### Wisconsin

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William Goggles

To : Cody Swift, Indigenous Peyote Conservancy Initiative

From : Jon Brady, President, Native American Church of North America

Re : Notification of Concern

Date : 10/13/2021

Please accept this correspondence as a formal notification of concern regarding the actions of IPCI and the consequences of those actions on NACNA and Indian country.

NACNA Delegates passed with a mandate the “Conflict of Interest” resolution at the 2021 national convention in Bismarck ND. This resolution prohibits officers on the NACNA board from a duality of interest including but not limited to service on the IPCI or the so-called National Council of Churches Boards.

NACNA is informing IPCI through this memo that we do not acknowledge the governance structure that IPCI is deploying under the auspices of the National Council of Native American Churches. The heart of the matter surrounds the consent of the members/constituents of the various self-appointed leaders of the NCNAC. At issue as well is the interference of IPCI in the internal governance of these organizations.

IPCI could theoretically chose the same individuals to serve on their 501-c3 non-profit board without entangling the organizations these individuals were elected to represent. From its initial breath to our current state documented consent and authorization of the members of these organizations does not exist. IPCI has never developed a methodology to measure consultation, consent, authorization, and consensus building by the chapters, groups, and individuals it purportedly is representing.

There is growing concern throughout Indian country that individual IPCI board members have financial ties to Riverstyx, Dr. Bronner, and IPCI. These include contributions to their individual non-profits, contributions to their individual chapters, stipends, honorariums, travel expenses and so forth. Our experience at NACNA and through consulting with various members of sister organizations is that these financial ties have never been disclosed to the members/delegates/stakeholders of the NAC community.

As a matter of transparency and enlightened policy it is incumbent on all parties involved to disclose these financial relationships. Recent developments have brought to light

lobbying efforts  
by IPCI using the  
name NCNAC in  
support of  
California State  
Assembly Senate  
Bill 519.

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Please be informed at no time has NACNA authorized anyone including an IPCI board member and a IPCI legal representative to endorse the “Decriminalization” SB519. On the contrary we share serious concerns regarding the bill and the appropriation of our voice without our consent, without any consultation and without a stronger stand for Federal Preemption.

Concerns regarding SB 519 center on the following:

- Repeated provisions inserting “mescaline” without clarification on source/derivative
- Lack of enforcement mechanisms to appropriately protect peyote
- Omission of enforcement training to clearly delineate legal source of mescaline
- Inclusion of NCNAC in the working group provision
- AIRFA provision inserted in a context that appears as if States have some discretion to recognize AIRFA or not.

This is sample of our concerns after analyzing the bill at our recent quarterly meeting.

The most egregious issue involves the lack of disclosure of financial ties between IPCI and Dr. Bronner’s campaign to decriminalize psychedelics nationally. The optics of peyote people endorsing the decriminalization SB519 is antithetical to the spiritual laws of the Native American Church. The inference behind this endorsement is that IPCI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Dr. Bronner. If IPCI wishes to carry water for the Decriminalization they must do so alone without any connection to the Native American Church of North America.

A central theme to the mission and purpose of IPCI is empowering Indigenous communities. There is a profound incongruence between these stated purposes and the actions that have clouded IPCI since its inception. The advancement of IPCI Legal representative as a spokesperson for Indigenous peyote communities including NACNA is symptomatic of a deeper malice within the governance of IPCI.

NACNA condemns appropriation of our voice by IPCI. It’s a voice that has a prodigious 73-year history and many prayers behind it. NACNA condemns the merging of peyote

conservation with  
the  
decriminalization  
agenda which is  
exclusively  
cultivated by  
IPCI.

Please accept the  
following as  
immediate steps  
that IPCI should  
take to mitigate  
the circumstances  
the organization  
now finds itself  
in.

1) Remove  
any reference to  
NCNAC in your  
web page/future  
documents, this  
unchartered/  
registered group  
of rogue actors is  
not a legal entity  
nor is it a  
representative  
body.

2) Cease and  
desist from  
continued  
references to  
NACNA as  
partners, no  
formal  
partnership  
exists, no MOU,  
MOA exist and  
the Delegates of  
NACNA have  
repeatedly  
expressed  
opposition to  
such a  
partnership

6) Return PRP I, II documents/research / notes to NACNA

These are recommended actions to begin the process of trust and credibility repair with IPCI. NACNA wishes to have a positive relationship with IPCI, we are however committed to offering a spirited challenge to the rogue actions of IPCI and individuals within the apparatus of IPCI.

3) Remove immediately references to the past NACNA president on the web page. It has been 5 months since the new leadership was elected and the conflict of interest resolution passed barring NACNA from IPCI board positions.

4) Clarify to California Assembly Senator Wiener that the SB519 endorsements from IPCI board member and IPCI legal representative were exclusively from IPCI

5) Urge Wiener to remove the National Council of Churches from the provision in SB 519 that includes this fictitious entity on the Working Group