



## COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

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March 28, 2011

Roger Ailes  
Fox News Channel  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 301-3000  
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Dear Mr. Ailes,

I am deeply troubled by a March 24, 2011 segment on Fox & Friends that featured John Stossel. In a matter of minutes, Mr. Stossel made a series of misinformed and irresponsible statements that has insulted an entire population of Native Americans and highlighted his level of disrespect and misunderstanding toward Indians.

Stossel ignorantly asked the rhetorical question, "Why is there a Bureau of Indian Affairs? There is no Bureau of Puerto Rican Affairs or Black Affairs or Irish Affairs." Stossel then made the claim that no group has had more help from the United States government than American Indians and no group does worse. Few words could be more misinformed or more offensive.

Perhaps if Mr. Stossel had bothered to educate himself before asking such a disparaging and misleading question, he would have learned that, unlike Puerto Ricans, Black Americans or Irish Americans, Native Americans share a unique relationship with the federal government called the Federal Trust Responsibility. This fiduciary duty arose from contractually binding promises made to Tribes in exchange for the hundreds of millions of acres of land ceded to the United States government during the nation's movement westward. Stossel intentionally misleads viewers to believe that the "help" tribes receive is some gratuitous benefit provided to one minority over another. However, it is, in fact, a requirement under terms of treaties and executive orders.

Had he bothered to research Native American history, Mr. Stossel may have also learned that U.S. military campaigns ordered to forcibly remove Indians from those lands, did so with lies, deception and ultimately by slaughtering our men, women and children. Maybe next time Mr. Stossel decides to recklessly rant about government waste he won't choose the department effectively mandated by Congress to remedy the aftermath of state-sponsored genocide.

While we did not ask for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be created, many of the services administered by that department are crucial to the continued survival of Indian people. These services are part of fulfilling contractual promises made by the federal government.

The ignorance behind the statements made by John Stossel poured salt into the slowly healing wounds of Native America and added disgrace to an already shameful page in American History.

An apology to Native Americans by Mr. Stossel and Fox News is in order and should be issued immediately.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chief J. Allan", with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief J. Allan  
Chairman  
Coeur d'Alene Tribe