

There are many matters of concern I believe are important to and, in some instances, troublesome for tribal members. If elected, I will have a role in taking decisive action to resolve some of these issues in a reasonable and specified timeframe. I realize accomplishing any goals requires a cooperative effort of all tribal council members.

A few of the concerns I have are:

- **Our water rights.** With the changes to come because of the recent national elections and installation of another President, cabinet and administration, we face a greater challenge and threat to our water rights. Our water directly impacts everything and every tribal member from present to future. There have long been entities and persons who have been **working against** our Tribe with the goal of reducing our Senior water rights or taking it away. Our Tribe historically fought for our water rights for many, many decades and this ever present threat requires more consistent and constant mindfulness to protect our status. Some methods I feel can help with protecting our water are:
  1. Rehabilitating, modernizing and expanding our water delivery system.
  2. Constructing water reservoirs on CRIT Reservation lands.
  3. Demand long overdue reimbursement for all CRIT water that goes back into the Colorado River. CRIT has never been reimbursed for returned water the way other municipalities and entities have been and this continues to this day. In my view, **this is a discriminatory practice** on the part of our Federal government.
- **Housing.** For decades, we have experienced: a critical shortage of affordable housing, a frustratingly slow development process; and, an excessively slow process for approving homesites. It is time to act on correcting these problems by streamlining our processes and getting funds to use for revising the existing Master Housing Development Plan and breaking ground to construct new homes.
- **Healthcare.** Our members have been feeling the negative impact of the high turnover rate of nurses and doctors at our IHS facility. There are clearly profound problems and we must address this by in depth assessment of what the issues are regarding recruiting and retaining health care providers and requiring immediate corrective action by IHS.
- **Long-Term Care and Residential Facility.** CRIT has a large aging population of tribal members. We are in dire need of a professionally staffed care facility for our elderly and for adults who are critically ill, physically disabled and chronically ill. When we send our elders and seriously afflicted tribal members to off reservation facilities, **we have failed them.** They face a life of fear from abuse, mistreatment and neglect because they have no protection. It is deeply troubling to think that our tribal members could be living a lonely and fearful existence in these places.

