

It's an accounting scandal that makes Enron and WorldCom look small time...

Responding to a bipartisan request from Congressional leaders, Native American leaders from across the nation recently joined in a historic show of unity to create a "Roadmap to Resolution" of the tragic mismanagement of the Indian Trust and the abuse of some of our poorest and most defenseless citizens. This is an injustice of epic proportions that a federal judge this summer described as "scandals, deception, dirty tricks, and outright villainy."

Your government promised to be a faithful trustee and pay you all the revenues from the sale of drilling, grazing, and timber rights on your lands. Over the course of a century, at least \$14 billion in revenues was collected—but Indians got little of the money. As far back as 1915 the U.S. Congress condemned the government for "fraud, corruption, and institutional incompetence, almost beyond



comprehension." Sadly, this legacy continues today.

For the last nine years, the Indians have sought justice in court. They have won victory after victory on the

merits of the case, despite the government's tactics of obstruction and delay. In 2002 the government's own experts conceded that their liability is between \$10 and \$40 billion.

Congress has now stated its intention to bring about an equitable resolution and effective reform. To achieve those goals, the principles of the "Roadmap to Resolution" and the findings of the federal courts must be honored. Anything less would fall short of righting this historic wrong and further delay justice for over 500,000 of our poorest citizens.

Visit our Web site, www.IndianTrust.com, to learn more about this historic breach of trust.

Elouise Cobell, on behalf of the 500,000 Indian Trust beneficiaries