

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 2016

[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing. Since taking Office, I have consistently worked to uphold the sacred trust between the Federal Government and Indian Country, to ensure respect for tribal sovereignty, to honor our treaty obligations, and to join tribal nations in a spirit of true partnership and mutual respect. Today, honoring our nation-to-nation relationship isn't the exception—it's the rule. And we have a lot to show for it.

My Administration created the White House Council on Native American Affairs to ensure that the Federal Government engages with tribal governments in a more coordinated and effective manner, and each year I've hosted the White House Tribal Nations Conference. In 2014, I was proud to launch the Generation Indigenous Initiative, and we also recently held the first-ever Tribal Youth Gathering at the White House—steps that leverage new investments and increase engagement to help ensure all Native youth can reach their full potential. These platforms allow Native communities to address their needs, share their experiences, and discuss innovative ways to lift up their communities.

My Administration has also made major investments in tribal communities—from job training and tribal colleges to energy and infrastructure—and has worked with tribal leaders to reduce systemic homelessness and improve protections for sacred sites. We've launched the ConnectHome initiative to make high-speed, affordable Internet accessible to communities across our country, and thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more Native Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. To read more about my commitment to tribal sovereignty and my Administration's work to improve the quality of life of all American Indians and Alaska Natives, visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/NativeAmericans. To access information about government resources for Native Americans, visit www.NativeOneStop.gov, and to learn about recent improvements in the way the Federal Government recognizes tribes, visit www.BIA.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/83revise.

Again, thank you for writing. I hold indigenous peoples close to my heart and know we can do more to create lasting progress. I also know that generations of violence, discrimination, and deprivation continue to have a profound effect on the everyday lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives. While we cannot rewrite the wrongs of history, together we can write a future of greater fairness, opportunity, and hope for indigenous peoples. That's what I am fighting for every day, for every village, every city, every town, and every reservation.

Sincerely,

