

Kevin Wright, Acting Chairman  
(Elected Vice Chairman)



Tribal Administration  
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Kevin Washburn  
Assistant Secretary  
Indian Affairs  
US Department of Interior  
MS-3642-MIB  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

9/14/15

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn.

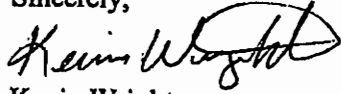
We are writing to update you about the current situation regarding the government of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in anticipation of the 638 Contract renewal process. At present, we urge that the Bureau of Indian Affairs ensure that there is adequate Tribal Council oversight of public funds before their disbursement.

**As noted in a letter sent to you in April 2015, a minority of two council members and a handful of their associates have control over tribal and federal funds. They have withheld information about tribal finances from the majority of the tribal council, tribal members, and the public more generally. Despite repeated efforts to resolve this situation, a majority of the tribal council still does not have access to this information, cannot oversee or authorize expenditures, and does not believe there is adequate oversight of public funds at Lower Brule. Concurrently, the US Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service are investigating the tribal government's and the last tribal council's use of funds and allegations of improprieties such as those reported by Human Rights Watch and the press.**

We, as a supermajority of the tribal council, are very concerned about the situation and want to ensure the much-needed social services are supported by the federal government, but only if there is adequate oversight by the tribal government and at least a supermajority of the tribal council. At present, we have seated a new chairman to fulfill the remaining term of the chairman that was vacated due to the untimely demise of former Chairman Michael Jandreau and we now have a working supermajority of four out of six council members who are ready to work with you and pass the appropriate resolutions to ensure adequate oversight and management of public funds. Conversely, a minority of two council members who are also implicated in prior allegations of mismanagement do not speak for the tribal government, regardless of their efforts to unilaterally control and oversee the use of funds.

We hope to meet with you or your representatives to ensure that allocations to Lower Brule can be renewed and are subject to proper tribal council and tribal government oversight. Since the end of the fiscal year is just weeks away, we hope to meet expeditiously to discuss these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Kevin Wright

cc: Timothy L. LaPointe  
Great Plains Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

James Two-Bulls  
Superintendent  
Lower Brule Agency