



Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

Office of the Tribal Chairman

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September 9, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman Senate Committee
Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member Senate Committee
Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Dakota Water Resources Act Amendments of 2024

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) of the Lake Traverse Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota, I write in support of the Dakota Water Resources Act Amendments of 2024, which authorizes funding for the development of our tribal water resources and infrastructure.

SWO is an original Native sovereign nation and federally recognized Indian tribe of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Under our 1867 Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe Treaty with the United States of America, SWO and our Dakota people reserved our Lake Traverse Reservation as our “permanent home” in North Dakota and South Dakota. As an aspect of our permanent home on the the Lake Traverse Reservation, SWO reserved tribal water rights for drinking water, domestic uses, housing, education, heath care, agriculture and tribal economic development per our 1867 Treaty.

Sisseton-Wahpeton seeks to develop our tribal water resources to provide for drinking water, domestic housing, education, health care, agriculture and tribal economic development uses per our 1867 Treaty. The reservation spans 7 counties between North Dakota and South Dakota. We have over 14,500 tribal members throughout the United States and abroad with the armed forces. Many tribal members would like to move back home and the Tribe plans to build 500 houses on the North Dakota side and 1,000 new homes on the South Dakota side of the Lake Traverse reservation to accommodate the growth. Between both areas numerous economic development endeavors such as renewable energy and manufacturing plant. In South Dakota, SWO plans on building a new school, community justice and rehabilitation center and expand the current grocery store to address the food desert that our people currently face.

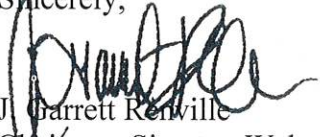
The Tribe has begun laying the groundwork to have these systems engineered in the most efficient way that addresses some of the most pressing needs. Some of these include but are limited to:



- The Installation of water treatment systems, water tower and water wells;
- The extension of water distribution systems to critical community water needs and housing needs not addressed by IHS funding;
- The upgrades of existing water distribution systems;

We respectfully urge the Committee to favorably report this important legislation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



J. Garrett Kenville
Chairman Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

