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Robert Chasing Hawk



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TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Bernita In The Woods
Bryce In the Woods

DISTRICT 2
Theodore Knife, Jr.

DISTRICT 3
Edward Widow
John Kessler

DISTRICT 4
Jim Pearman
Kevin Keckler
Merrie Miller-White Bull
Mark Knight

DISTRICT 5
Ryman LeBeau
Raymond Uses The Knife
Robert Chasing Hawk
Derek Bartlett

DISTRICT 6
Tuffy Thompson
Tater Ward

January 27, 2018

Kristi Noem, Representative for South Dakota
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Opposes H.R.4864 - No Haven for Dangerous Fugitives Act of 2018 and its Racist Undertones

Representative Noem:

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe strongly opposes HR-4864, the bill that you introduced that erodes tribal sovereignty and the jurisdictional reach of treaty tribes. As a sovereign tribe by nature and necessity; we conduct our own affairs and we do not depend on the State of South Dakota's source of power to legitimize us. We demand you leave us to regulate our own internal affairs and respect our constitution, comity, and jurisdictional boundaries. To allow the federal government to enforce state warrants on our land is like a knife stabbing into our hearts. You people have taken away our lands, destroyed our economies, our way of life, and attempted to take away our right to pray! This bill will take away one of the few things we have left of our sovereignty and jurisdiction. Haven't we Indians given up enough?

Here on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, we have an extradition process for criminals. It would make more sense for you and the federal government to visit our reservation, so you can become knowledgeable of our philosophy, customs, and history. So I ask, don't be like previous "Great White Fathers" and think you know what's best for us Indians. We have been forced to adopt many of the "white man's ways" so we do have laws and procedures to extradite. So I demand you pull this bill and meet with us Indians face to face. Tribal sovereignty has been progressively and systematically diminished by the actions of the federal government, including the Supreme Court, so we will not stand idle while you undercut and undermine Indians any further.

Indian Country is not a haven for fugitives to evade law enforcement, we are a haven from forced assimilation. We are a haven for cultural practices, spirituality, and communal living. Just because we have a

distinct political system, court system, and education system does not mean we are second class. We have strong cultural and spiritual ties and we strive daily to preserve our way of life.

To set up a meeting to discuss this further, you may call my office at your earliest convenience at 605-964-4155. I look forward to hearing from you and I will be pleased to hear if you decide to improve tribal state relations instead of erode them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H.C. Frazier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harold C. Frazier
Tribal Chairman-Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Chairman-Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association