



White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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April 29, 2009

CHAIRWOMAN
Erma J. Vizenor

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Franklin Heisler

DISTRICT I
Irene Auginaush

DISTRICT II
Terrance Tibbetts

DISTRICT III
Kenneth Bevins

Chairman Collin Peterson
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson:

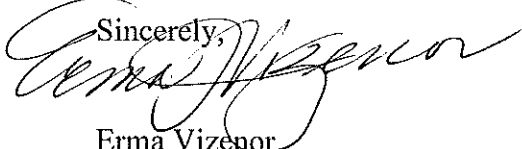
Thank you for your continued assistance to support the people of the White Earth Tribal Nation. We appreciate all of your efforts to better the lives of our Members.

The White Earth Tribal Nation supports unanimously this request for funding to your office. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,500,000. The amount requested in the SAFETEA-Lu reauthorization is \$2,800,000. The remaining amount has been identified through non-allocated funds received by the White Earth Tribal Nation. This is a critical project of the Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan.

The project we are requesting is dedicated to enhancing the project which has become a national model for Indian Country. It was started with federal funds in 2006 and currently provides transit with five vehicles to the 30,000 enrollees of the White Earth Tribal Nation, which is spread over three counties in northwestern Minnesota. As you know, the 2000 census showed over 24% of our Members do not have personal vehicles and walk to employment, school, or health facilities. This service has provided a dramatic improvement to their lives, and is currently featured as a model for Indian Country for a small transit service.

The funds we are requesting in this questionnaire will provide a shelter/maintenance/administrative center for the White Earth Transit Service next door to our current Administration Building. We plan to purchase several new buses with these funds, also, and to upgrade pedestrian and vehicle access to bus shelters. These upgrades possibly will allow us to expand service.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request, and if you have further questions, please contact Ron Valiant or Burny Tibbetts at 218-983-3285.

Sincerely,


Erma Vizenor
Chairwoman