



OCT 17 2014

The Honorable Dave Archambault II
Chairman, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Building 1, North Standing Rock Avenue
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538

Dear Chairman Archambault:

As Co-Chairs of the Tribal Energy Subgroup of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, we write in response to your letters of July 1, 2014, to President Barack Obama, and July 14, 2014, to Secretary Vilsack and us regarding the Oceti Šakowin Wind Power Development Project (Oceti Šakowin Project).

Our Departments are familiar with the Oceti Šakowin Project proposal. We are pleased to have provided funding to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe to support feasibility studies, technical studies for wind project development, and other efforts relevant to the Oceti Šakowin Project.

You have requested that the White House Council on Native American Affairs to be a mechanism for providing assistance to the Oceti Šakowin Project. Within the White House Council, the Tribal Energy Subgroup is designed to improve inter-agency coordination on Federal programs that support tribal energy projects, and is one venue for overseeing and coordinating the efforts of the various agencies that can provide the Tribes with information and assistance relevant to the Oceti Šakowin Project. We believe that your inter-tribal collaborative project provides a unique factual context that touches upon, and will help inform, nearly every aspect of the Tribal Energy Subgroup's interagency work. As co-chairs of the Tribal Energy Subgroup, we agree that the Tribal Energy Subgroup is the appropriate venue through which this Administration should provide the Sioux Tribes with coordinated multi-agency information and assistance relevant to the Oceti Šakowin Project.

We have directed our staff to follow up with you on this matter. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the following individuals: for the Department of Energy, Ms. Pilar Thomas, Acting Director, Office of Indian Energy (pilar.thomas@hq.doe.gov or by phone (202) 287-6566); Department of the Interior, Ms. Letty Belin, Senior Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (letty_belin@ios.doi.gov or by phone (202) 208-6291); and Department of Agriculture, Ms. Patrice Kunesh, Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development (patrice.kunesh@osec.usda.gov or by phone (202) 690-3543).