



# Bois Forte

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
United States House of Representatives  
145 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Urgent Request to Take Action to Stop Layoffs of Federal Employees Providing Services to Indian Country

Dear Senator Klobuchar, Senator Smith, and Representative Stauber:

I am writing on behalf of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council, the governing body of the Band of Chippewa (the "Band"), with urgency as to the widespread federal layoffs executed by the Trump Administration that have already begun. Many of these sweeping layoffs will have devastating impacts on the Band, its programs and services, and Indian Country as a whole. We respectfully request that you take all action possible to stop these harmful layoffs and urge the Trump Administration to uphold federal government's trust responsibility to tribes.

According to recent reports, the Trump Administration's planned layoffs are expected to include more than 850 Indian Health Service ("IHS") employees, at least 118 Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") employees, and at least 40 Bureau of Indian Education ("BIE") employees. These layoffs will have wide-reaching negative impacts in Indian Country, as IHS alone provides vital health services across 37 states to approximately 2.8 million American Indian and Alaska Natives. Further, the BIA is responsible for funding and supporting law enforcement, corrections, and court services for tribes, in addition to maintaining vital tribal infrastructure, including over 29,000 miles of roads and over 1,000 bridges. At Bois Forte IHS and BIA funding and support are

5344 Lakeshore Drive | Nett Lake, MN 55772 | 218-757-3261 | 800-221-8129 | FAX 218-757-3312

Vacant  
Chairperson

Tara Geshick  
Secretary/Treasurer

Shane Drift  
District I Representative

Perry Drift  
District I Representative

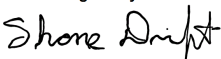
Robert Moyer  
District II Representative

foundational to our Band members' receiving the health and community services they need on a daily basis.

We are concerned that these layoffs will leave the Band and other tribes across Indian Country without access to essential health care, critical tribal services, and updated vital infrastructure, among other things. The layoffs directly violate the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes and put countless lives at risk. I urge you to take immediate action to stop these harmful layoffs and ensure that tribal programs are protected from further cuts.

Thank you for your swift attention to this urgent matter.

Chi Miigwech,

DocuSigned by:  
  
0BF99A3D32724D6...

Shane Drift  
Vice-Chairman  
Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council