



Bois Forte

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

March 12, 2025

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: Impact of Executive Orders on Critical Tribal Positions and Programs

Boozhoo Senator Klobuchar, Senator Smith, and Representative Stauber,

On behalf of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council (“RTC”), the governing body of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (the “Band”), I urge you to take all immediate action in your power to halt and reverse the impacts to federal employees and funding serving Indian Country, as those positions and programs are essential in order to provide critical services to the Band and its members. The Trump Administration’s recent Executive Orders (EO) coupled with the reductions in the federal workforce and funding for Indian Country directly undermine Tribal sovereignty, existing federal law, and the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Tribal Nations. These actions must stop.

Recently, the Trump Administration has targeted thousands of federal workers across nearly all government agencies. Reports indicate that this includes more than 2,600 federal employees at the Department of Interior, including more than 100 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employees, more than 40 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) employees, several employees at the Office of Indian Affairs, as well as social workers, firefighters, and police that work on behalf of Indian Country, plus some 950 Indian Health Service (IHS) employees at the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

These actions are not only legally questionable, they also directly violate the trust and treaty obligations of the United States to Tribal Nations by disrupting critical services throughout Indian Country.

Indeed, the Administration's actions are directly impacting the Band's ability to provide critical services to its members. For example, the BIA is the principal criminal law enforcement agency within the Bois Forte Reservation enforcing both tribal and federal laws. The Band was recently informed that the President's Executive Orders have halted the hiring of an open BIA law enforcement position dedicated to Bois Forte, which directly undermines public safety on the Band's Reservation. Additionally, the Band has been informed that several employees dedicated to the Minnesota Agency of the BIA have been laid off. This will directly impact core services to the Band in the areas of land management, forestry, probate and other essential functions.

Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with a unique legal and political relationship to the United States. The United States has a clear trust and treaty responsibility to Tribal Nations, as established through the U.S. Constitution and treaties, and reaffirmed in statutes, executive actions, and judicial decisions. These trust and treaty obligations in some cases predate both the establishment of all of the agencies in question as well as the United States itself. Pursuant to those legal obligations, the federal government must adequately fund and staff agencies that provide these essential services and programs, including at BIA, BIE, and IHS.

Once again, we urge you to take every action possible to ensure that the Trump Administration's actions do not negatively impact Indian Country and undermine the federal government's solemn trust and treaty obligations to the Band.

We look forward to continued discussions on this important matter.

Chi Miigwech,

DocuSigned by:

0BF99A3D32724D6...

Shane Drift
Vice-Chairman
Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council