



February 10, 2021

Dear Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senators and Congressman:

Please accept this letter in support of the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4013 which urges Congress to pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act.

In passing the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act will enable tribes within North Dakota such as Spirit Lake Tribe in their continued efforts to diminish a checkerboard land base restoring lands and more control over those acres of lands on Spirit Lake. All lands within the reservation boundaries have cultural and spiritual ties to our Spirit Lake people. These lands were used significantly in ceremonial use and purposes and grow an abundance of foods and medicines that are harvested for cultural use. Furthermore, the passage of the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act will allow for Spirit Lake the opportunities to explore future use as the primary beneficiaries of these recovered lands.

This proposed legislation will also provide a much needed boost in financial aid to support North Dakota Public Schools. Currently, there are 5 public schools on or adjacent to the Spirit Lake Reservation supporting education for our tribal members.

The Spirit Lake Tribe fully supports and urges Congress to support and pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Yankton", followed by a stylized flourish.

Douglas Yankton
Tribal Chairman
Spirit Lake Tribe