



Rosebud Sioux Tribe

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November 25, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Remove the Stain Act

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, I'm writing to express support for the Remove the Stain Act ("Act"). It is with a heavy heart caused by thoughts of the Wounded Knee Massacre that I thank you for introducing an Act that would serve as an honorable gesture towards formally acknowledging a historical wrong and fostering healing. After 129 years, the massacre is still a subject of sorrow for the Lakota, and I believe is an embarrassment to the United States.

Let us never forget that on the morning of December 29, 1890, the U.S. 7th Cavalry opened fire on hundreds of Lakota, men, women, and children – almost all of whom were unarmed. Twenty Medals of Honor were awarded to participants in the Wounded Knee Massacre. Let us not allow this event to cast a shadow on the legacy of the Medal of Honor – an award that should be reserved for only the most genuine acts of valor. This Act would not only rescind the medals awarded to recipients for their actions committed during the massacre, it will ensure the Medal of Honor maintains its rightful prestige.

Some may criticize this Act. They will say it is merely a gesture that will not change the past. However, this Act serves as much more. This Act is a symbol of continued reconciliation efforts and what the United States continually aspires to be. If there is anything else we can do, or if you have any questions, please contact me at rodney.bordeaux@rst-nsn.gov or Travis Jansen, Director, RST OLA, at 605-319-9275 or travis.jansen@rst-nsn.gov.

Sincerely,

Rodney Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe