GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

US Post Office Box 988, Rapid City, SD 57709

January 7th, 2025

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 Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc., and as the Executive Director of the GPTCA, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for Remembering our Ancestors massacred at Wounded Knee. We thank you for reintroducing this important legislation, and this letter acknowledges the GPTCA's full support of the 'Remove the Stain Act' as introduced by United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.).

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc. (GPTCA) is a Section 17, federally chartered Intertribal Corporation representing the 16 Indian nations and tribes in the Great Plains Region – North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

The GPTCA has a standing resolution adopted in 2008 (**Resolution No. 74-11-14-08)** that urgently calls for the revocation and removal of the Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers who were involved in the massacre: "*of nearly killing and wounding over 300 unarmed men, women, children, and elderly Lakota's",* on December 29th, 1890, the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Tribal leaders continue to support this resolution adopted almost twenty years ago, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to Remembering our Ancestors massacred at Wounded Knee: There was no honor in murdering babies, women & children. The standing resolution also intends to 1.) bring

attention and resolution to this important matter and 2.) highlight the collective commitment of tribal leaders to request that this historical wrong be revisited and revoked. Their dedication to the cause is a testament to the gravity of this issue.

The GPTCA strongly supports the 'Remove the Stain Act,' and believes its enactment is a crucial and long overdue action to review and rescind Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers involved in the Wounded Knee Massacre. We continue to emphasize, there was no honor in murdering Babies, Women & Children. The GPTCA sees the removal of these medals as a vital step in building a stronger relationship with the Great Sioux Nation, the Oceti Sakowin, and serves as a proper and truthful acknowledgment of all those massacred on that tragic day.

Sincerely,

A Gay Kingman, Executive Director
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