



For Immediate Release

FLANDREAU, SD May 21, 2024

President Reider called an emergency meeting on Saturday, May 18th to address the comments made by Governor Kristi Noem and the potential for banishing her from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. The meeting was contentious at times, as some members vocalized their opposition. Out of respect for the elders, President Reider made contact with the Governor's Office, which promptly set a meeting between the two governments. That meeting took place on Monday.

President Reider and Vice President Weddell met with Governor Noem and addressed the recent statements made in reference to "Indian Country." The conversation was respectful and productive.

After months of discussion, observing and hearing the reactions of fellow tribal nations; today, the Executive Council continued their deliberations, which focused on the advice that the governor has received in communicating with the tribal nations and ultimately the effectiveness of that message, which all agreed, was ill advised and escalated the situation. The Executive Committee calls on the governor to reconsider the effectiveness of the liaisons she has appointed and whether or not they truly have an understanding of the issues affecting tribal nations as well as their ability to foster a cooperative relationships between the Tribes and the State of South Dakota.

President Reider informed the governor that a ban from our territories is imminent and requested that the Governor refrain from making future blanket statements that offend the tribes within the boundaries of the State of South Dakota, some of which depend on state services for the needs of their people. It was recommended that the Governor clarify her statements and issue an apology to all tribal nations for the misunderstanding. Until such a time, the Executive Council and the people of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe stand with our fellow nations.