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# Oglala Sioux Tribe

## Office of the President

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Wiyaka Tokaheya Yuha Najin

Theresa B. Two Bulls  
President

April 27, 2009

Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin

331 Cannon

US House of Representatives

Washington, DC

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT—BIA ROUTE 2-19.5 MILES

PRIORITY REQUEST RATING NUMBER 3

Dear Representative Herseth-Sandline:

Please accept this **LETTER OF SUPPORT** for the Oglala Sioux Tribe's **THIRD HIGHEST PRIORITY** for inclusion within the Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. This project provides an essential construction of **BIA ROUTE 2 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS CUNY TABLE ROAD)** beginning at BIA Route 27 at the Ranger Station/Visitor Center of the Badlands National Park South Unit and ending at 1.8 miles East of BIA Route 41 for a distance of 19.5 miles. BIA Route 2 (Cuny Table Road) is a necessary component of the development of tourism at the South Unit of the Badlands National Park and an essential ingredient to a tribal Scenic By-Way project that ultimately benefits tourists to the area as well as residents of the Reservation. It is anticipated that paving BIA Route 2 will enable many Black Hills visitors to come see the natural beauty of the South Unit of Badlands National Park. It is reasonable to expect that a significant synergy among tourists will encourage mutual visitation to the South Unit and the Wounded Knee Historical Site. Tribal members should see a significant increase in economic benefits from the increased visitation. As President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I explicitly support the proposed BIA Route 2 (Cuny Table) Paving Project as the third highest priority project for inclusion within SAFETEA-LU.

Bia Route 2 is a well constructed gravel road that runs along the entire length of the South Unit of the Badlands National Park. Visitors are hesitant to use the road, however, due to fears about vehicle damage, broken windshields, and increased travel times. BIA Route 2 is the necessary gateway for tourism traffic if the Oglala Sioux Tribe is to attract a significant portion of Black Hills tourists to visit the South Unit of the Badlands National Park, Wounded Knee, or other attractions of the Reservation. Increased traffic will inevitably result in significant economic benefit to the tribal members and tribal businesses. The proposed project will result in paving the roadway with asphalt pavement as set forth in the attached documents. It is expected that paving BIA 2 will greatly increase the success of the Tribe's Scenic By-Way effort.

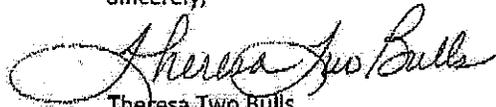
The OST Department of Transportation is requesting **\$17.0 million dollars** to pave the existing road as aligned. The Tribe's average annual funding under SAFETEA-LU is only about \$5 million dollars for the entire Reservation so the Tribe has been unable to complete major construction projects without significant federal financial support.

The public will have several opportunities to comment on the proposed project. The Tribe anticipates public comments periods due to the adjacent National Park boundaries and the issues related to the South Unit. The Tribe regularly holds public hearings on major construction projects under 25 C.F.R. Part 170. The Tribe solicits comments in development of its Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan and the OSTDOT Road Commission considers those comments in its review of proposed construction activities. The Tribe's Economic and Business Development Committee then considers the matter further before action is sought by the Tribal Council or Executive Committee. The public can request their voice be heard at each hearing.

The proposed project is estimated to cost **\$17.0 million dollars** and the Tribe requests that amount for **100% funding** under SAFETEA-LU (or successor) legislation.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe looks forward to paving BIA Route 2 and **I FULLY SUPPORT THE PROJECT**. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed or you may contact the OST Department of Transportation Director (Mr. Jeffrey Whalen) at 605-867-5376 (office), 605-441-0267 (cell), or [Ostroads@gwtc.net](mailto:Ostroads@gwtc.net) (email).

Sincerely,



Theresa Two Bulls  
President  
Oglala Sioux Tribe