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Attorney Andrew Adams III
Hogen Adams
1935 County Road B2 West, Suite 460
St. Paul, MN 55113

Attorney Tiffany Beaty
Fidelity Nation Title Group
211 S. 67th St. #210
Omaha, NE 68106

Attorney Jason Y. Chun
First American Title Insurance Company
1 First American Way
Santa Ana, CA 92707

Chairman Matthew Gaulke
Town Board, Town of Lac du Flambeau
109 Old Abe Road, PO Box 68
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Attorney Gregory J. Harrold
Counsel for Town of Lac du Flambeau
Harrold, Scrobell & Danner S.C.
315 Oneida Street
Minocqua, WI 54548

Attorney Bridget M. Hubing
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.
N16W23250 Stone Ridge Drive
Suite 1
Waukesha, WI 53188

President John Johnson Sr.
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake
Superior Chippewa Indians
418 Little Pines Road
PO Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (BIA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

To Interested Parties:

It has been months since the decade-long dispute involving easements and road access issues in the Lac du Flambeau community came to a head with barricades being installed. While we appreciate the steps taken by the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the Town of Lac du Flambeau to temporarily remove the barricades, we remain frustrated and disappointed by the lack of collective work done to resolve this issue permanently, despite repeated and continued attempts by our offices to assist in resolving the issue. It is long past time for mediation.

Our offices have worked to keep lines of communication open with all parties involved—the Tribe, the Town, and the title companies—since becoming aware of this dispute. Most recently, we have encouraged the Tribe to mediate this matter with the Town and have sent a list of mediators to the Tribe. We have had conversations with President Johnson encouraging to do so and our staff have followed up with resources. The Governor's chief legal counsel remains open

to having conversations with the Tribe's legal counsel to further understand any outstanding issues, and to ongoing conversations with the Town's attorney as well.

In addition to the Governor's meeting with the Tribe on February 4 on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation at their request, our offices have had numerous conversations with the Tribe, the Town, the Title Company, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Department of Interior, and we will continue to do so until a resolution is reached.

However, what has been and continues to be the most important part of resolving this ongoing dispute is communication between the interested parties. We are again asking all of you to sit down and work toward an agreement.

We are extremely disappointed that mediation has yet to occur. This delay harms the people of Wisconsin, whether they are Tribal members, impacted homeowners, or other members of our communities. A lack of action will not help tensions and are a threat to the well-being of the individuals directly involved and the greater community.

The Governor's office has provided a list of potential mediators to the Tribe. We do not wish to impose a particular individual, we ask that the parties consider this list as a starting point and a resource for review and consideration. For mediation to be successful, the parties must select a mediator that all support. Most importantly, we ask that you begin planning for mediation, including selecting and scheduling with a mediator, immediately.

As elected officials, we cannot dictate the terms of settlement of a private dispute, but we remain committed to doing all we can to encourage open and frank communication and to supporting negotiations between the parties to find a resolution as quickly as possible. Resolution of these expired rights-of-way is long overdue, and we urge all parties to communicate and negotiate in good faith—and to agree to do so expeditiously— to find a solution to this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Governor

Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator

cc:
State Sen. Felzkowski
State Rep. Swearingen