



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR DEB PETERS, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN CRONIN, CO-CHAIR

April 1, 2016

Mr. Steve Emery, Secretary
Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2016 Session

Dear Secretary Emery:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations relating your appropriation and the additional FTE approved in the FY2017 General Appropriations Act (SB172). As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 29, 2016. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

During consideration of HB1012, an act to provide for an additional position in the Governor's Office of Economic Development to coordinate economic development with the tribes and to make an appropriation therefor, the Committee discussed the importance of improving economic development opportunities for the nine Tribes of South Dakota. The Committee tabled HB1012 with the intent that the additional FTE approved in the Department of Tribal Relations' FY2017 budget would allow staff more time to focus on economic development issues.

The Committee requests that the Department identify detailed objectives, projects, and goals that it aims to accomplish and complete over the next fiscal year and provide this information to the Committee. The Committee would also like the Department to provide the functions and activities of the additional policy analyst approved in SB172. Additionally, it is the intent of the Committee that the Department provide a status report by December 31, 2016, on the progress of achieving the goals outlined by the Department.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters
Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

/S/ Representative Justin Cronin
Representative Justin Cronin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management