



Rosebud Sioux Tribe

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Statement of Support for the Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act

Forced compliance with the Employer Shared Responsibility Payment provision of Section 4980 H of the Internal Revenue Service Code could prove to be financially devastating for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. With over 800 employees, estimates show that compliance with this mandate could possibly cost the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in excess of six million dollars annually.

For an already impoverished people residing on a reservation with an unemployment rate that hovers around 87%, this could quite possibly mean dissolution of many of the tribal jobs that do exist on the Rosebud. It will also result in a reduction in services to our elders and youth and the imposition of severe limitations on various other social programs.

It is a United States treaty obligation to provide healthcare for members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. We believe that the authors of the Affordable Care Act recognized this, as an exemption for individuals enrolled in federally recognized tribes exists within the language. However, there exists no exemption for tribal governments as employers.

Despite making gradual progress in its economic development efforts, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe simply can't **afford** to comply with the Employer Shared Responsibility provisions under Section 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code. Passage of the Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act will provide the Rosebud Sioux Tribe with relief from this financially debilitating provision of the Affordable Care Act. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe fully supports and humbly requests support from members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate in passage of the Tribal Employment and Jobs Protection Act.

Respectfully,

William Kindle, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Byron Wright, Treasurer
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