



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
KRISTI NOEM | GOVERNOR

May 8, 2020

Oglala Sioux Tribe  
President Julian Bear Runner  
PO Box 2070  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Dear President Bear Runner,

It has come to my attention the Oglala Sioux Tribe established travel checkpoints on US and State Highways. The Tribe did so despite the April 8, 2020 memorandum received from the United States Department of the Interior. The Department of the Interior, in its April 8, 2020 memorandum, set forth the legal parameters and procedure the Tribe must follow. To date, the Oglala Sioux Tribe has not followed the legally established procedure.

The State of South Dakota objects to tribal checkpoints on US and State Highways regardless of whether those checkpoints take into consideration the safety measures recommended by the SD DOT. Safety recommendations do not constitute consultation and certainly do not equal agreement. The April 8, 2020 memorandum is enclosed for your review.

I request the Tribe immediately cease interfering or regulating traffic on US and State Highways and remove all travel checkpoints. If the checkpoints are not removed within the next 48 hours, the State will take necessary legal action.

Sincerely,

Kristi Noem  
Governor

Enclosure

CC: Director, Daryl LaCounte, Bureau of Indian Affairs