



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEBRASKA

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Dear Senator,

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes that Native Americans should participate in the formulation, development implementation and valuation of all policies and programs affecting them.

Specifically, the League supports equality of opportunity for employment, health care, education, and welfare benefits for Native Americans. We recognize that our state must work with a sovereign tribal government and that there must be cooperation to resolve the dilemma that has existed in Whiteclay for decades. Therefore, we also recommend an interstate approach to the problem of economic depression on the reservation. Cooperation among the states of Nebraska and South Dakota, the Nebraska Liquor Commission, the federal government, and reservation governing body is suggested.

The statistics concerning the effects of alcoholism on infants are staggering. The League supports early intervention for children at risk, including the provision of quality health care with proper nutrition and prenatal care. The League also supports prevention of child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy prevention, developmental services for children ages 0–3, and family support services. We recognize that it is not the role of Nebraska government to provide such services to Native Americans living in South Dakota, but stress that these ideals should be kept in mind while working toward resolution of the problem that is Whiteclay.

We applaud the construction of a cell tower in the town to help the efforts of local law enforcement. We also strongly recommend that tribal law enforcement be stepped up to take care of drunk residents traveling between Whiteclay and their homes.

The League urges you and your fellow senators on the General Affairs Committee to take into consideration all testimony that was presented at the recent Whiteclay hearing. The League applauds Sen. Pansing Brooks for traveling to Whiteclay to see for herself the problems and needs and then return to take action.

Sherry Miller, President, League of Women Voters of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

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