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Letter from Representative Burdick to Martin Cross Regarding House Joint Resolution 33, July 27, 1949

Usher Burdick

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Ind.

July 27, 1949

Mr. Martin Cross
Elbowoods, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Cross:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 24, written on behalf of a group of Indians.

The House passed H. J. Res. 33 giving the Indians of Ft. Berthold the full amount asked for in the Lenke Bill. The Senate cut this bill down 5½ million dollars, making the amount allowed by the Senate \$9,105,625. The bill is now in conference and, while I cannot guarantee anything in legislation, it appears to me that the House amount will be put back.

Only when the bill passes will the matter be submitted to the Indians for approval. If the bill does not pass, then there is no settlement and the matter is just where it started. Nothing settled. I do not, however, think this will happen, because the government is in a position where it will be forced to make a settlement. The government has started to build a dam, yet up-to-date it hasn't settled with the Indians whose lands will be destroyed, and it cannot afford to be in this position.

If an agreement is reached by the conferees soon I will wire you the agreed upon amount. Details of any agreement will be in the state papers before a printed copy is available, but I'll forward one to you as soon as possible.

With kind regards to you and the members of your group,

Sincerely yours,

Usher L. Burdick
Member of Congress