



12-17-1952

Letter from Reginald J. B. Page to Senator Langer Regarding Federal Funding for Road Construction, December 17, 1952

Reginald J. B. Page

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Recommended Citation

Page, Reginald J. B., "Letter from Reginald J. B. Page to Senator Langer Regarding Federal Funding for Road Construction, December 17, 1952" (1952). *William Langer Papers*. 756.
<https://commons.und.edu/langer-papers/756>

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER
GARRISON DISTRICT
FORT LINCOLN, BOX 300
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
DISTRICT ENGINEER
GARRISON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 300
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

REFER TO FILE NO.

17 December 1952

Honorable William Langer
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Langer:

Reference is made to your letter dated 10 December 1952, which inclosed a copy of a resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners of McKenzie County. The resolution urges construction by the Government of approximately seven and one-half miles of road from North Dakota State Highway No. 23 at Johnson's Corners to the west boundary of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation to connect with the system of roads now under construction within the reservation.

As indicated in the resolution, this office is designing and constructing a system of roads to serve the Indians and the relocated facilities of the Fort Berthold Indian Agency. The extent and location of roads to be provided was determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This road system lies wholly within the Fort Berthold Reservation. In accordance with an agreement between that agency, the Bureau of the Budget and the Corps of Engineers it was determined that the Corps of Engineers would accomplish construction of the road system and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would be responsible for defending the necessity for the road system.

The road construction requested by the County Commissioners is outside the limits of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in an area in which road construction would normally be accomplished by the County. If this section of the road is not improved, access to Watford City, North Dakota would be by present unimproved county roads or by way of other reservation roads now under construction, to State Highway No. 23, about 9 miles west of Sanish. The road at this location is 12 miles north of the road requested by the Commissioners.

Honorable William Langer

17 December 1952

Since the requested road construction is not included in the approved road relocation plan prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs this office is without authority or funds to include the road in the Fort Berthold road construction program. While the relation of the proposed road construction to the new Fort Berthold road system is a matter for primary consideration by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, this office strongly doubts that such additional road construction at Federal expense is justifiable as a part of the relocation of Indian Agency facilities necessitated by Garrison Reservoir.

Any further information you may desire on this subject will be submitted upon request.

Sincerely yours,

R. J. B. PAGE
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer