



1946

## Draft of Letter From Senator Langer "To Indians of North Dakota" Regarding US House Resolutions 4497 and 1095, 1946

William Langer

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TO INDIANS OF NORTH DAKOTA

Dear Friends:

A new day has dawned for the Indians.

As a Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I am pleased to announce that the Committee has favorably reported H. R. 4497 to the Senate. This bill has passed the House of Representatives and has been amended by the Senate Committee. It creates an Indian Claims Commission to settle claims against the United States, of whatsoever nature, of all tribes, bands, or other identifiable groups of Indians of America residing within the territorial limits of the United States or Alaska.

All claims against the United States growing out of unfulfilled treaties, whether by Executive Order or otherwise, and for lands taken by the United States without compensation, may be presented to the Indian Claims Commission within five years after the approval of the Act, for final settlement. Only the claims arising PRIOR to the approval of the Act may be presented to the Claims Commission.

All claims that may arise AFTER the approval of the Act may be presented to the Court of Claims, thus giving the Indians the continuing right to the settlement of any claims that may arise thereafter. The bill authorizes each tribe and band or other identifiable group of Indians to be represented by attorneys of their own choosing.

H. R. 4497 now goes to the Senate for passage and then to the President for his approval.

For many years Indians in North Dakota, as well as in other States, have been endeavoring to secure an opportunity for the settlement of their claims. I am glad to do whatever may be in my power to secure that opportunity for ~~them~~ you without further delay.

(Copies of the bill and Committee report will be sent upon request. ← omit?)

It also gives me pleasure to announce that a bill to appropriate \$400,000.00 for the Indians of Berthold Reservation has been favorably reported to the Senate by its Committee on Indian Affairs. On two previous occasions the Senate passed a bill for this purpose, which failed of passage by the House. It is encouraging to note that the present bill has been passed by the House, and I anticipate that it will soon be passed again by the Senate and sent to the President for his approval.

The object of this legislation is to carry into effect an obligation solemnly assumed by the United States arising out of a treaty negotiated with these Indians on July 27, 1866.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Calendar No. 1440

79<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1095

[Report No. 1413]

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1946

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

JUNE 4 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1946

Reported by Mr. O'MAHONEY, without amendment

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## AN ACT

For the relief of the Indians of the Fort Berthold Reservation  
in North Dakota.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3        That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of  
4        any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the  
5        sum of \$400,000 in full and final settlement of all claims  
6        and demands of the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian  
7        Reservation in North Dakota, composed of the Arickarees,  
8        Gros Ventres, and Mandans, which claims are based upon  
9        stipulations of an unratified treaty dated July 27, 1866  
10        (Kappler's Laws and Treaties, vol. 2, p. 1052) : *Provided,*  
11        That the amount when appropriated shall be deposited in

1 the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Indians  
2 of the Fort Berthold Reservation and shall draw interest  
3 in accordance with existing laws: *Provided further*, That not  
4 to exceed 5 per centum of the amount herein authorized  
5 may be used by the Secretary of the Interior for payment  
6 of fees and expenses of attorneys employed under contract  
7 approved in accordance with existing law.

Passed the House of Representatives May 20, 1946.

Attest: **SOUTH TRIMBLE,**  
*Clerk.*

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