



5-17-1948

## Letter from Senator Langer to Evan Baker Regarding Selling of Fort Berthold Land, May 17, 1948

William Langer

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Indians

COPY

May 17, 1948.

see  
Hon. Evan Baker, Sr.,  
Box 262,  
Elbowoods, North Dakota.

Ref ✓

Dear Mr. Baker:

Following is a report I have received from the Fort Berthold Agency in response to my recent inquiry in your behalf: X

"Reference is made to your confidential letter of April 16, 1948, regarding the desire of Evan Baker to sell 160 acres of land.

"I assume that the 160 acres he has in mind is the one marked in red on the attached map, as it is the only land Mr. Baker has under farming lease.

"As you know, the Government is taking 155,000 acres of Indian-owned land from the Reservation. It is that area which is in the blue color on the attached map. There will be a demand for land by the Indians themselves when the 155,000 acres is paid for. There is a provision in the inclosed copy of contract where the Indians who receive cash for their lands may buy such land as Evan's and put it back in a trust status.

"In view of the loss of so large an acreage of Indian-owned land, from the Reservation for the Garrison Project those lands now held in trust for the Indians should not be sold until this entire resettlement situation is clarified; particularly since you have been kind enough to introduce for the tribes a joint resolution which has a land adjustment provision in it.

"It appears to me that if Mr. Baker could hold off until the attached contract is approved by Congress he would stand a better chance of getting a decent price for his land, and especially this will be possible if your joint resolution receives favorable consideration by the Congress.

"The majority of the adult members of the Tribes have at this writing signed approval of the attached contract. The members of the Council are continuing to obtain additional signatures to have a strong majority ap-proving it before sending it to Congress. As you know, they have until June 1st to do this."

To: Evan Baker, Sr.

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May 17, 1948.

It was a pleasure to get this information for you, and I believe it would be well for you to accept the Superintendent's advice. If you feel there is anything further I can do, however, I want you to be sure to let me know.

With kindest regards and hoping you are well, I am

Sincerely,

WL:ipm  
Encls.