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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 17, 2016

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack and Promise Zone Team  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Promise Zone Team:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, in collaboration with the Spirit Lake Tribe and surrounding communities, to be designated as a Federal Tribal Promise Zone. I appreciate your time and attention.

As you certainly understand, the proposed Tribal Promise Zone carries the potential to help meet the needs of families facing severe poverty in these tribal communities. Doing so will not only help provide stability and self-sufficiency for such families, but will also promote greater opportunity and prosperity throughout the region through education and workforce development, improved access to housing and health services, and increased economic activity.

During my time as governor of North Dakota, I worked with our state's tribes to improve the overall health, safety, and economies of our tribal reservations. I have brought a similar mindset to Washington, D.C., where I have the honor of serving as a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Considering these facts, I have a strong interest in this application, which holds the promise of securing an economically diverse and sustainable future for not only two tribes in my State, but also all surrounding communities.

Accordingly, I hope this application receives the full and fair consideration it deserves. Please keep me informed of the review process, and feel free to contact me with any questions or inquiries you may have. I look forward to continuing my work with you and other federal, state, and local officials to attain a brighter, more sustainable future for the tribes and their members.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator