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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6450

ALLISON BINNEY, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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August 21, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I write to object to the Department's transfer of six police officers from the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. At an August 4, 2008 hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs you stated that Operation Dakota Peacekeeper would remain intact at least until September 30, 2008.

Instead of reducing the law enforcement presence at Standing Rock, I urge you to utilize the \$23.7 million in funding that Congress appropriated in Fiscal Year 2008 to address the lack of law enforcement personnel on high crime reservations.

In May, the North and South Dakota congressional delegation requested the Department to submit a plan for how it intended to spend the \$23.7 million in funding for the Safe Indian Communities Initiative. The Department has yet to respond to that request. I write to ask that you immediately provide the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs an update on the status of these funds, the estimated time frame in which they will be disbursed to tribes, and the Bureau's formula for allocating the increased resources among high crime reservations.

Your timely consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



BYRON L. DORGAN
Chairman