



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 27 2005

The Honorable Dave Anderson
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20549

Dear Dave:

It is with both understanding and regret that I received your letter informing me of your decision to resign as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, effective February 12, 2005.

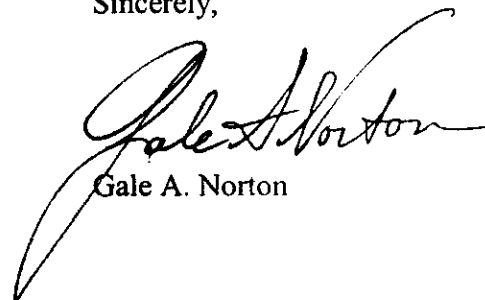
On behalf of President Bush, I thank you for your service, and I am convinced that Indian Country is better off because you served. You can take justifiable pride in your efforts to improve Indian education, law enforcement, and trust services. You have also been a terrific role model to young people in Indian Country. I have received many reports from people who have been encouraged by your message of hope, self-reliance, and belief in the personal worth and dignity of each Native American.

I appreciate your desire to return to the private sector. You have accomplished much: earning a Master's degree from Harvard while creating three publicly traded firms that employ 18,000 people is a confirmation of your enormous skill.

With your broad success in the business world, I have the utmost confidence that you possess keen insights on creating and growing business institutions. I applaud your intention to work with successful Indian entrepreneurs and policy analysts to draft a proposal to promote economic development in Indian Country. I look forward to the opportunity to review the proposal when you have completed your work.

Again, thank you for your service to Indian Country and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton