

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE  
RESOLUTION NO. A05-25-178**



**ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR NATIVE CHILDREN AND  
UPHOLDING THE FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT TRIBAL  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the Spirit Lake Tribe, formerly known as the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe, is a federally recognized Indian Tribe governed by a constitution dated April 14, 1944, approved by the Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs on February 14, 1946, and as subsequently amended on January 10, 1958, May 5, 1960, July 14, 1961, July 17, 1969; May 3, 1974; April 16, 1976; May 4, 1981; November 21, 1991; and August 19, 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Spirit Lake Tribe generally authorizes and empowers the Spirit Lake Tribal Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribe and of the enrolled members thereof, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a clear trust and treaty responsibility to Tribal Nations for the education of Indian children, as established through the U.S. Constitution and treaties, and reaffirmed in statutes, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Education administer critical programs supporting Native students, rooted in treaties, federal laws, and case precedents, including the Snyder Act of 1921, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988, the Johnson O'Malley Act of 1935, P.L. 81-874 (1950), Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and the Indian Education Act of 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, the Spirit Lake Tribe shares many priorities with the current Administration in ensuring that federal education funds are used effectively, that education is directed by local communities and parents, that unnecessary federal regulations are minimized, that federal funding mechanisms are streamlined, and that Tribal economic engines are strengthened; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential restructuring or dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education poses significant threats to the stability and accessibility of these vital resources guaranteed through trust and treaty obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States' trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Country are mandatory obligations, not discretionary budget items, and must not be subject to defunding or elimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribally Controlled Schools Act declares that "a national goal of the United States is to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable tribes and local communities to obtain the quantity and quality of educational services that will permit Indian children to compete and excel in areas of their choice; and to achieve the measure of self-determination essential to their social and economic well-being;" and

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**WHEREAS**, the Spirit Lake Tribe requests that the Administration issue exemptions to any federal policies that would undermine the federal government's trust responsibility in Indian Country, including but not limited to Indian education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, past initiatives, such as the Great American Outdoors Act and the Executive Order on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, have demonstrated the Administration's commitment to Tribal Nations, and the Spirit Lake Tribe is committed to continuing this partnership to address the challenges facing Indian education; and

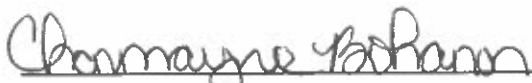
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Spirit Lake Tribe urges the President and Congress to uphold the federal trust responsibility by ensuring the continuation of all Tribal-specific education programs, including those with Tribal set-asides; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any changes to the administration of federal education programs must include meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and ensure that funding mechanisms remain intact for the benefit of Native students; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Spirit Lake Tribe directs the appropriate tribal officials to engage with federal agencies and legislative bodies to advocate for the protection and continuation of these critical education programs.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned as Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of six (6) members of whom five (5) were present, constituting a quorum for a Special Meeting duly called and convened on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 and approved this resolution by an affirmative vote of three (3) in favor, none (0) opposed, none (0) abstaining, and one (1) absent (Kooper Longie, Woodlake District Representative). The Secretary-Treasurer does not vote and the Chairman votes only in case of a tie.

  
**Charmayne Bohanon**  
Secretary Treasurer



  
**Lonna J. Street**  
Tribal Chairwoman