



THE NAVAJO NATION

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PETERSON ZAH
PRESIDENT

FEB - 7 1992

MARSHALL PLUMMER
VICE PRESIDENT

Vernon Masayesva, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
Post Office Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Dear Chairman Masayesva:

I am writing to you about the Coalmine Mesa Chapter compound and the Hopi Tribe's demand that it be immediately dismantled and removed from the Hopi Partitioned Land (HPL). I know you can understand that such an action cannot be taken unilaterally by the Navajo tribal government, but requires the understanding and consent of the people dependant upon that compound for the provision of essential services. In order to gain such agreement, my staff has met with the Coalmine Mesa Chapter officials and residents three times within the last twenty days to discuss the removal of the chapter compound. After a full day of discussion on February 2, 1992, the chapter took a position on the issue.

The people of Coalmine Mesa Chapter have determined that they want to move the chapter house compound to a place where Coalmine Mesa residents will eventually be able to construct freely homes to live in and where they will have access to electricity, water, sewer, and telephone lines. The chapter has even tentatively selected a site.

Coalmine Mesa residents have fully discussed with Navajo representatives the difficulties with immediately moving the chapter. The chapter residents understand that the Hopi Tribe will not allow the compound to be moved to another area on the HPL. They are also aware that the use rights in the freeze area are uncertain at this time and that it is unclear how long this uncertainty will remain. Finally, they understand that it will take time to obtain land withdrawals, utility rights-of-way and funding, and for design and construction of a new facility.

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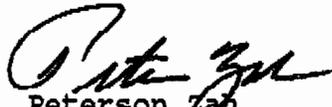
In order to address the Hopi Tribe's concerns until permanent plans can be implemented, the Navajo Nation would prefer to pay the Hopi Tribe rent for the use of the Coalmine Mesa Chapter Compound area. The Hopi Tribe is not being compensated currently for the use of this land. This is because the so called "Settlement Act" did not authorize or require the payment of rent for the chapter compound.

At a meeting in Phoenix on January 15, 1992, Tim Atkeson suggested the payment of rent by the Navajo Nation for the Coalmine Mesa Chapter's use of facilities on the HPL, as a temporary accommodation, might be acceptable to the Hopi Tribe. We are offering the Hopi Tribe interim rent payments because, as you can well understand, an immediate disruption of government assistance to local Navajo people would be unduly harsh. Such services include emergency assistance like assisting with wood, coal, food, livestock feed, and water hauling in the summer. The chapter also provides employment opportunities for all its residents and students as well. Livestock management assistance like branding is also provided by the chapter. The provision of these services can be best accomplished by people familiar with the needs and services required by the residents of Coalmine Mesa.

The Navajo Nation respectfully requests that the Hopi Tribe consider our offer to pay interim rent on the Coalmine Mesa Chapter compound. To the extent necessary, the Navajo Nation is willing to consider any counter offer the Hopi Tribe may have. I look forward to a response from you soon.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION


Peterson Zan
President

cc: Mike O'Connell
Arnold Taylor
AJP