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Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 3:11:15 PM
To: Lockwood, Robert E <robert_lockwood@ios.doi.gov>; Radford, Wynn L <wynn_radford@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Haskell University/probationary termination

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Hello, Wynn and Rob,

I received your contact information for the transition folks who set up Sen. Moran's meeting with Sec. Burgum before his confirmation. During their meeting, Sen. Moran raised the importance of solving some systemic issues with Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS, caused, in part, by red tape and federal staffing due to its status as a federal entity under BIE.

We have a bill to charter Haskell as an independent entity outside of the federal government. Sen. Moran raised this with Sec. Burgum and the Secretary seemed receptive of the idea.

In the meantime, we heard today from the Chairman of the Prairie Band Tribe that Haskell has been part of the current probational termination effort. I understand from him that some BIE K-12 schools were exempt. According to the Chairman, most of the workers affected would be food service and maintenance workers at the University. This would be present a challenge for the University and the students who are already working and learning in a difficult environment.

Is the information from the Chairman accurate in that Haskell employees are set to be terminated? If so, can Interior exempt those employees?

Going forward, we would like to work with the Department on our legislation to reduce the federal government's footprint, but in the meantime, we want to make sure the students are fed and the campus is maintained.

Thank you!

Mark

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