



White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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April 2, 2009

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Erma J. Vizenor

SECRETARY-TREASURER
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DISTRICT I
Irene Auginaush

DISTRICT II
Terrance Tibbetts

DISTRICT III
Kenneth Bevins

Hon. Collin Peterson
Member of Congress
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson,

Thank you for the support you have provided to the White Earth Tribal Nation on many issues during your years of public service to the State of Minnesota. We certainly appreciate your assistance.

I am writing today to request \$2 million in the FY '10 federal appropriations cycle for a wild rice processing plant and storage facility on the White Earth reservation. This facility would allow greater harvesting of wild rice by Tribal members, jobs for processing the wild rice, and a storage facility for the additional processed rice prior to expanded national sales. We believe this facility would, at a minimum, triple the amount of rice that could be harvested to meet the potential national sales.

White Earth, we believe, is the home to the finest wild rice available worldwide. It has been recently documented in Smithsonian Magazine and Martha Stewart Living. The quality of the grain is superb and much interest has been generated about selling this product nationwide for its superb taste and organic qualities.

As you know, the White Earth Tribal Nation needs any economic development activities we can produce. As the leader of the White Earth Tribal Nation, I strongly support this request that would provide extra income for any Tribal member who is interested in harvesting this grain on our reservation. In addition to the grain sales by Tribal members, we know limited jobs would be achieved by the additional processing of the grain and the expanded sales force.

Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to working with you on helping this request succeed.

Sincerely,

Erma J. Vizenor
Chairwoman