

JOHN KLINE  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KLINE.HOUSE.GOV

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Calvert and Ranking Members Lowey and McCollum:

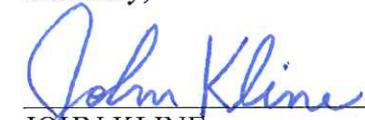
As you begin the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process, we strongly urge the Appropriations Committees to help address the deplorable health and safety conditions of schools maintained by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). Toward that end, we request the *FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* continue the robust funding provided in FY 2016.

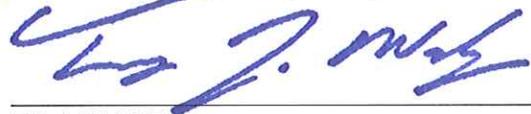
Through investigative reports by the Government Accountability Office and the Minneapolis Star Tribune, as well as oversight hearings held by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, we know significant health and safety hazards exist at many BIE facilities, including the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The federal government has made a commitment to Native American children and families to provide educational opportunities in a manner that preserves their culture, language, and traditions. We are encouraged by recent steps moving the federal government in a better direction, including additional funding support, a new priority list for facility replacement, and an interest in reorganizing the current structure at the BIE. However, these steps are just the beginning of the process. Congress must continue to exercise its oversight and legislative authority to meet the commitment we made to Native American children and their families.

We are pleased to see last year's investment in facilities for the BIE and hope it will be maintained in the next fiscal year. There is no question many of these schools lack the adequate facilities to meet the needs of their students, and it is time to do better. We look forward to

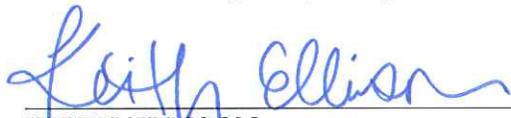
working with you and other stakeholders to help all Native American students receive an excellent education in a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued commitment to this effort.

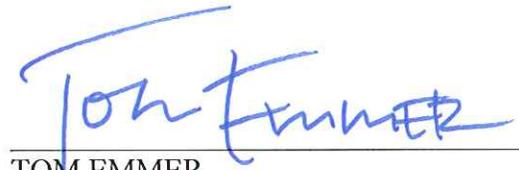
Sincerely,

  
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JOHN KLINE  
Member of Congress (MN-2)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WALZ  
Member of Congress (MN-1)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ERIK PAULSEN  
Member of Congress (MN-3)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress (MN-5)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOM EMMER  
Member of Congress (MN-6)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COLLIN C. PETERSON  
Member of Congress (MN-7)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD M. NOLAN  
Member of Congress (MN-8)