



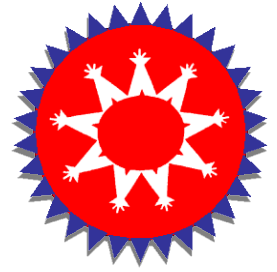
# Oglala Sioux Tribe

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*Julian Bear Runner*

### President Julian R. Bear Runner

#### Statement on Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe lawsuit against President Trump and Other Federal Officers June 25, 2020

On behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I am unequivocally stating our strong support for our relatives, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST), in their efforts to protect the health and welfare of CRST Tribal citizens and Reservation residents against the COVID-19 global pandemic.

On Tuesday the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe took a stand for Tribal sovereignty and against abuses of power by the federal government in filing suit against President Trump and other Federal officials. The Federal government's actions against the CRST regarding its public health checkpoints are shameful and especially egregious, knowing that Indian people are a highly vulnerable population for COVID-19. In light of the Federal government's treaty obligations and trust responsibility to the CRST and its citizens, it should not be threatening the CRST. Rather, it should be working diligently and tirelessly with the CRST to stave off the grave threat of COVID-19 to the CRST citizens and Reservation residents.

As Lakota people, we understand the importance of protecting our communities, especially our vulnerable members - such as our elders, who we hold dear - against outside threats. Traditionally, we have always done so. We have been here a long time, and we will do what it takes to make sure that we are here for a long time to come. COVID-19 is a deadly outside threat to public health that does not discriminate. South Dakotans, including Tribal members, throughout the state are at risk. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's actions are in good faith to protect Tribal members and other Reservation residents. Their actions align with the Lakota way, but also with good government practice. Tribes, including CRST, must adopt serious measures to deal with this serious public health crisis. Tribal sovereignty must be respected in this public health emergency. We, therefore, stand firm in our support of our relatives, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and we call upon the Federal government to work with the CRST, not against it.

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