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April 23, 2013

Dear Congressman Markey,

When six members of your House of Representatives demanded in November of 2011 that the Bureau of Indian Affairs investigate reporting by NPR of a crisis related to Lakota foster care in South Dakota, your expectation seemed clear to us: that NPR's allegations concerning serious violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act by South Dakota would be treated by the BIA as a grave matter of Native child welfare and tribal sovereignty. Your intentions were clear to the BIA as well, as they wrote in response to you, on November 22, 2011, that they would host a summit in early 2012 with "all the stakeholders" on this issue to "ensure compliance with ICWA and to ensure the protection of Indian children and preservation of Indian families."

We Lakota/Dakota leaders, therefore, find it unacceptable that the BIA's draft summit agenda, as of now—only three weeks away from the now-scheduled summit in Rapid City, South Dakota for May 15-17, 2013—fails to address *any* of NPR's dominant claims, or to propose what we consider to be serious solutions to our crisis.

The BIA's draft summit agenda includes, for example, no planned investigation of:

