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Letter from William Zimmerman to Senator Langer Regarding Wilcox Relocation Plan, February 15, 1949

William Zimmerman

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Indians
Resources
2380-49

wheat 3001
RS 1820
FEB 15 1949

Hon. William Langer,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Langer:

This is in reply to your communication of February 3 transmitting a proposal for rehabilitation of the Fort Berthold Indians by Mr. Burton Wilcox, President of the Public Welfare Board of North Dakota.

The Missouri River Basin Investigations Staff of the Indian Service has made rather extensive studies and reports of the problems that have arisen because of the flooding of the reservation and is developing a detailed program for the resettlement of the displaced Indians and for their establishment in a satisfactory economy.

The Indian Service is anxious to cooperate to the fullest extent with the various departments and agencies of the State of North Dakota both in the resettlement of the Indians and the establishment of future arrangements for promoting their welfare. Discussions have been held with the Governor of North Dakota and representatives of the State agencies to work out the provisions for greater participation in the affairs of the Indians and agreement as to joint and several responsibilities.

There is before the Congress a resolution (H.J. Res. 33) providing for ratification by Congress of the contract between the Corps of Engineers and the Tribes and to provide funds for the resettlement and rehabilitation of the Indians.

In general, the objectives in Mr. Wilcox's tentative proposal are similar to those of the Indian Service and we are pleased to note the thought that has been given to the matter by him. We are returning Mr. Wilcox's tentative proposal. It is suggested that he send a copy of his proposal to Mr. Allan G. Harper, Assistant Regional Director, U. S. Indian Service, 804 North 29th Street, Billings Montana. Mr. Harper is directing the work of the Missouri River Basin Investigations Unit.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. Britchfield
For the Commissioner.