

## Fort Belknap Indian Community

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE EXTREMELY SEVERE CONDITIONS OF THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THREATENING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY AND TO REQUEST GOVERNOR BULLOCK TO ISSUE A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY SUPPORTING THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL DECLARATION AND REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE FROM STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES SUCH AS FEMA**

**WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is the governing body of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, by the authority of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Tribes approved on the 13 day of December 1935, and**

**WHEREAS, under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security and general welfare of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, and**

**WHEREAS, Article V, Section 1(f) of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Constitution delineates the authority of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council...to manage the economic affairs of the Community and to appropriate available funds for public purposes.**

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**WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Community (“FBIC”) Council has been monitoring the spread of the extremely dangerous COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and its threat to the health and well-being of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné members of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and its residents as it threatens the lives of FBIC residents by confining them in their homes, denying them access to food and medical assistance, endangering the overall public safety and well-being of the Fort Belknap community members lives, loss of income, and current ways of life on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; and**

**WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Bullock issued Executive Order No. 2-2020 “Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency to Exist Within the State of Montana Related to the Communicable Disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus” due to the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Montana, which recently reported several presumptively positive cases of the novel coronavirus; and**

**WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act and made an emergency determination under the Stafford Act, thereby providing for emergency protective measures and other necessary assistance under the**

Act to States, Tribes and local governments, including access to federal dollars to respond to the spread of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Belknap Indian Community has begun to take steps to address the encroaching pandemic by issuing a travel ban on out-of-state travel, expanding it to include non-essential in-state travel, participating in intergovernmental teleconferences regarding addressing the COVID-19 coronavirus and coordinating services; identifying needs and developing a plan to respond to related issues; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and staff have begun to prepare a plan to respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus including employee leave policies; contact sources; dissemination of information; senior citizen services, school services; closure of non-essential services and public places; transportation issues; medical issues; and other such services that affect the daily lives of members and residents of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and the lives of service providers; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council extends a request to Governor Bullock for assistance from the State of Montana and for the Governor to immediately issue a Declaration of Emergency for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in support of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council's Declaration of State of Emergency due to the extremely severe impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus that threaten the Fort Belknap Indian Community and community members and to request assistance from State and Federal agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council requests assistance from the State of Montana to assess the potential impact and on-going damages that will be caused by the diagnosis of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; and,

**WHEREAS**, costs cannot be estimated at this time, but will include medical costs including respiratory equipment and medications; cleaning and sanitizing supplies and employee wages; personal protection equipment; tribal shelter costs; personal assistance costs; tribal and public health employee protection measures and associated costs; food supplies; special needs of elderly and vulnerable population; meals for elderly, pre-school and school aged population; with estimated damages being significant and estimated to exceed \$250,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council and staff are working with the State and Federal representatives in addressing all the potential impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus should it reach the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council hereby declares a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation due to the extremely serious impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

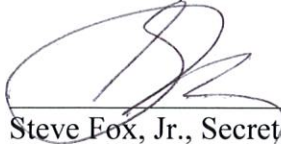
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fort Belknap Indian Community hereby requests Governor Bullock to Issue a Declaration of Emergency Supporting the FBIC Declaration and Requesting the Assistance from State and Federal Agencies, including any waivers related to healthcare regulatory requirements or otherwise, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the FBIC Council Officers are hereby delegated the authority and responsibility to sign all documents necessary to affect this action.

**ATTEST:**



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Andrew Werk, Jr., President  
Fort Belknap Community Council

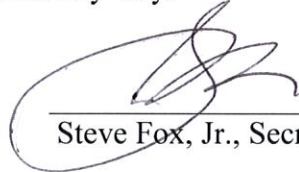


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Steve Fox, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer  
Fort Belknap Community Council

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana, do hereby certify that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is composed of 10 (ten) members of whom 7 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 16th day of March, 2020; and that the foregoing Resolution of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council was duly adopted and approved the affirmative vote of 7 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting; 0 temporary absent; 3 excused absent; and that the said Resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

DATE: 16 Mar 20



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Steve Fox, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer