



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

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Attorney Andrew Adams III  
Hogen Adams  
1935 County Road B2 West, Suite 460  
St. Paul, MN 55113

Attorney Tiffany Beaty  
Fidelity Nation Title Group  
211 S. 67th St. #210  
Omaha, NE 68106

Attorney Jason Y. Chun  
First American Title Insurance Company  
1 First American Way  
Santa Ana, CA 92707

Chairman Matthew Gaulke  
Town Board, Town of Lac du Flambeau  
109 Old Abe Road, PO Box 68  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Attorney Gregory J. Harrold  
Counsel for Town of Lac du Flambeau  
Harrold, Scrobell & Danner S.C.  
315 Oneida Street  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Attorney Bridget M. Hubing  
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.  
N16W23250 Stone Ridge Drive  
Suite 1  
Waukesha, WI 53188

President John Johnson Sr.  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake  
Superior Chippewa Indians  
418 Little Pines Road  
PO Box 67  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (BIA)  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

To Interested Parties:

For more than a year, I have joined local residents and state and federal partners, among others, in repeatedly urging you to come together, engage in mediation, and find a long-term solution for the ongoing road issues facing the Lac du Flambeau community. As of today, I have yet to learn that such a meeting has occurred.

I was encouraged by the temporary solution that has been in place to allow monthly access to the roads, intended to enable conversations to continue toward lasting resolution. As I have previously told the parties, these measures would not last indefinitely and a long-term solution must be agreed upon. Still, no long-term solution has been reached. It is clear that

in order for this to be resolved, parties must come together, parties must take accountability, and resources must be put forward by the responsible parties.

It is my understanding that the Town of Lac du Flambeau is hosting a special meeting next week. According to a public letter sent to my office and information provided by the Town, the Town has explored a number of solutions, but indicate that they lack the statutory authority to proceed with any of those potential options. In the same letter, the Town states that they are looking to offer real estate to the Tribe as a potential resolution but indicate it is their hope that the state or federal government will provide the land in order to do so. I write today in an effort to provide clarity.

If the Town is interested in real estate currently owned by the state, the Town has statutory authority to purchase land from the State of Wisconsin, and it must do so from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). The state cannot give land away at its pleasure. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands regularly sells parcels of land throughout the state. While most often done through auction to the highest bidder, municipalities can purchase land directly without a parcel going to public auction.

If there is serious interest in providing land in exchange for access on these roads, the Town and the title companies should explore this option in an effort to purchase land from the state. I also understand the Town and title companies have already identified several BCPL parcels that may be of interest to the Tribe.

I remain hopeful the parties will come together to reach a long-term resolution, and I look forward to hearing about how a meeting among the involved parties goes, and again urge for all parties to be engaged in making meaningful progress toward a solution. Should a real solution and resolution be reached, I am happy to make myself available to join the parties, most especially in the instance I can be of any assistance in effecting said resolution.

Respectfully yours,



Tony Evers  
Governor