



BLACKFEET NATION

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BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

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September 20, 2017

Dear President Tsai Ing-Wen,

Oki! Greetings! My name is Harry Barnes and I am the Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Nation in Browning, Montana, USA.

On behalf of the Blackfeet Nation, we congratulate you on becoming the first female President of Taiwan AND the first President with some Indigenous roots. Sometimes as leaders we are called to show great courage. You demonstrated that courage when you led the efforts for reconciliation with Taiwan's Indigenous people. I had hoped to attend that event but embassies are sometimes slower than we individuals. As first nations people of the United States we can testify to the value of a strong relationship between governments. Unknown to most nation states in the world, we enjoy a government to government relationship with the United States through Treaties. Like any relationship, it is not perfect but it does allow for recognition of our sovereignty. More importantly our basic rights to exist and practice our ancient ways through ceremony and spirituality.

Part of my reason for wanting to come for indigenous day was to meet with the Indigenous Council. We are interested in trade between our nations and had hoped to get help from that Council as an intermediary between our nation and your government. We have an abundance of agricultural development as we are comprised of over 1.2 million acres and we just settled a Water claim that provides Tribal control of 95% of our traditional waters. Over 800,000 acre feet of water. This will lead to greater development through irrigation and storage.

We look forward to a prosperous journey to self-sufficiency. We look for a mutually beneficial relationship with you and the people of Taiwan. I would propose an exchange of trade delegation to move this forward. I would like to personally invite you to visit the Blackfeet Nation and see firsthand an ancient people practicing their ancient ways and applying them to a modern world. If this is of interest to you or your staff, please contact me at:

Harry Barnes, Chairman Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
hbarnes@blackfeetnation.com
P.O. Box 850 Browning, Montana, USA

I pray the Creator Protect you and your family and the people of Taiwan


Harry Barnes

Agriculture Opportunities For the Blackfeet Nation

The Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana owns and controls over 50,000 acres of land within the boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Although the actual land holdings are much larger reservation wide, these 50,000 acres represent tracts in blacks that are manageable for agricultural purposes.

LIVESTOCK

The majority of these acres are native range acres. Because these acres are located in the higher precipitation zones, the types and quantities of available forage make it ideal for livestock grazing. The Blackfeet Tribe has the ability to utilize these lands in a rotational grazing management system. This type of system will effectively utilize the available forage while maximizing the weight gain on market livestock. Due to the vastness of the available acres and the quality of forage, an ideal marketing scheme would be to produce natural grass fed beef. The potential would be to produce over 1000 market animals annually.

DRYLAND FARMING

Soil types on the Blackfeet Reservation are very conducive to agricultural production. A great deal of land is currently being utilized for dryland farming, which is primarily used to produce small grains, with wheat and barley being the predominant type. There are a few local markets for small grains, most being located immediately adjacent to the railway which traverses the Reservation. However, with access to the railway, grain can be marketed globally.

IRRIGATION

On several of the Tribal properties, the Blackfeet Tribe owns irrigation systems. These systems include center pivot systems, which have the capability to irrigate large tracts of land, and wheels lines for the smaller tracts. These systems are fed by a larger canal system which supplies irrigation water to Reservation lands. With the ability to irrigate large blacks of land, the opportunity to diversify the type of production becomes greater. Malt quality barley can be produced, which is a higher demand product and is contracted at a premium price versus feed quality barley. High quality forage such as alfalfa, timothy, clover, and other premium type of

legumes and grasses can be produced for hay and silage. The Blackfeet Tribe is exploring opportunities to supply an international market with high quality forage. Additionally, pulse crops are becoming a more common planting on the Blackfeet Reservation. Dried beans, chickpeas, and lentils are the most common types of pulses. These types of crops are beginning to play a huge role in healthy eating worldwide. They are also a versatile crop that can be used to promote biodiversity, improve soil health, and generate income from a global market.