SENATOR DORGAN: Mr. Hayes,

thank you very much. First of all, we have a very specific schedule here for this task force. We are scheduled to take a break at 11:15 and we're going to do that, but there are three counsel members from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that have come today. They would normally speak at the end of the day, and they've had two suicides of 15-year-olds and they must go back for some services.

And, I would offer them to use five minutes so that one of the three counsel members of Standing Rock wishes to do that. I know they've traveled here, they wish to say a word, but we do have to break at 11:15.

But I want to first of all thank this panel. What an extraordinary panel. Thanks not only for your testimony but your work. Thank you very much.

And let me say that Jesse Taken Alive, Robert Two Bears, and Robert Taken Alive are here from the Standing Rock and I believe Jesse Taken Alive is coming up. If you don't mind five minutes. We'll give you the opportunity to express your presence here, and I
know, Jesse Taken Alive of your long work on
these issues. So, in five minutes, we appreciate
your willingness to do that and we're sorry that
you can't be with us at the end of the day. You
may proceed.

JESSE TAKEN ALIVE: Thank you,
Senator, for your many, many years of work.
I've been given the honor to serve our people since
1991 in our tribal, rural communities. Four years
as tribal chairman and we've developed meaningful
productive relationships.

First of all, let me begin by saying,
we've all heard this quote over the years in the
books from one of our tribal leaders at home from
Hunkpapa Lakota, Sitting Bull. He said, "Pick up
the good and leave the bad alone." What he
didn't say is, be like them, and this is,
essentially, what is being talked about.

My message to this panel is,
please believe and understand that the answers
that we seek are tribally driven. They're
tribally driven. We've heard some testimony this
morning and some suggestions, and I hear those
and have heard those time and time and time
again. So please, take that into consideration,
answers are tribally driven.

Resources and treaty words and payments come from Washington D.C. That's very important to know. Otherwise we'll continue the struggle, we'll continue to see our children become statistics, if you will, be it dropping out, whatever the case may be. Answers are tribally driven; resources and treaty awards and payments, payments because of the land that's being leased, they come from Washington.

Anytime we have a behavior referral within our school system we re-victimize (phonetic) that child because education comes from Europe. We look at our data over the generations, 70 percent dropout, almost as high if not higher than graduation rates. Our focus must be on all the children. I'm very proud and will always support those who succeed, but those who are unable, we need to focus some attention on them. So, education comes from Europe.

The point I make with this, we're talking about education reform within Indian Country. I couldn't appreciate more Eric Holder's comments about education, and that's what we're talking about. We've got our experts,
if you will, we've got our relatives and friends
with the necessary education from America to make
these necessary life saving changes. So,
education comes from Europe.

Anytime in Indian Country we want to
submit something that's productive, that works,
that produces results, unless it's evidence
based, my friends, my relatives, it gets shoved
to the side. These practice-based initiatives
must be looked at and respected and funded
because they do work, they are working.

Again, Sitting Bull said, "Pick up
the good, leave the bad alone." He did not say
be like them. He did not say that. And our
children are looking at that.

The other piece to this: Our
Treaty promises; health, education and housing.

Treaties payments of course are payments for the land
that's being leased. America needs to know that.

We did not sell land. Our Indian nation, we did
not sell it; we're renting it. Somehow this
message has to get to Congress; otherwise,
they'll be saying what's been said for
generations unfairly: Indians get things free,
why don't they be quiet, they whine, all those

"Transcript from the First Hearing of the Advisory Committee of the
Attorney General’s Task Force on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence.
Bismarck, ND. December 9, 2013."
stereotypes that aren't true at all.

Finally, Mr. Mandela passed away, Nelson, and you watched the TV. He's being domesticated and sanitized in his death. He stood up for things that his people lived with for centuries, for generations.

I'll close with a quote. It was made by one of our tribal leaders back home. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the best way to peacefully change the world. Education can also inhibit and be an agent of domination, which always brings unhealthy psychological behavior. Can we Indians and non-Indians step back and review the all of it and honestly ask, has education been a peaceful instrument for American Indian people?

If Nelson Mandela stood for anything, he stood against the injustice of political ignorance but he also understood and created the fruits of peace. So, he was known and appreciated by the world for his calm and ever growing voice against racial injustice. His existence taught us that peace is the best way to be with others and self. To honor the warrior spirit and humble teaching of Mandela, we have
our responsibility to engage in education that
may some day afford a peaceful outlook versus a
disturbance in the heart and soul of our
children.

SENATOR DORGAN: Jesse Taken Alive, you have, as always, been direct and on
point and very, very thoughtful. Thank you very
much.

JESSE TAKEN ALIVE: Thank you,
Senator, for this opportunity.

SENATOR DORGAN: Okay. There
will be a 15 minute recess and we will be back at
11:30.

(A brief break was taken.)