

Resolution presented by Frank LaMere
Approved June 19, 2016 NDP Convention

Lexie LaMere Resolution

2016 Resolution

WHEREAS Whiteclay, an unincorporated village in northwestern Nebraska with fewer than a dozen residents, lies on the border of the Pine Ridge; and

WHEREAS Whiteclay lies on a 50-square-mile parcel of land in Nebraska known as the Whiteclay Extension (and today commonly referred to as the Buffer Zone), which was incorporated into the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1889 by an act of Congress of the United States to rid the area of whiskey ranches which preyed upon the Oglalas living at the Pine Ridge Agency; and

WHEREAS the majority (49 square miles) of the Whiteclay Extension, including that part which now contains the village of Whiteclay, was removed from the Pine Ridge in 1904 by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt in illegal contravention of acts of Congress: and

WHEREAS the removal of the Whiteclay Extension from the Pine Ridge resulted in the return of whiskey peddlers to the area now known as Whiteclay Nebraska; and

WHEREAS Whiteclay is today the site of four liquor stores licensed by the State of Nebraska that sell over four million cans of beer a year almost exclusively to residents of the Pine Ridge; and

WHEREAS Whiteclay has no local law enforcement and has experienced rampant lawlessness and illegal activities, including unsolved murders; and

WHEREAS an estimated one in four children on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation suffer from the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD); and

WHEREAS the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council had declared Whiteclay a public nuisance and had repeatedly asked the State of Nebraska to stop the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay; and

WHEREAS Nebraska governors, attorneys general and the Liquor Control Commission have failed to act in the matter to stop the sale of alcohol in Whiteclay; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party reaffirms its oft-stated opposition to the sale of alcohol at Whiteclay and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party calls upon Barack Obama, the President of the United States, to issue an executive order countermanding the executive order issued by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904 and returning the Whiteclay Extension to the jurisdiction of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Passed unanimously at the Dakota County Democratic Convention May 24, 2016 (Referred to as the Lexie LaMere Resolution)