



SOUTHWEST RESERVATION AID™

A program of Partnership With Native Americans
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3-8-22

Mr. Tom Millington
51 Northview Dr.
Burlington, VT 05408-1860



Yá'át'ééh (Hello) Mr. Millington,

As Americans, we are facing challenging times and uncertainty with the coronavirus crisis continuing to affect all of us. You may already be familiar with the difficult situation facing Native Americans living in Navajo Nation — perhaps you've even seen the news coverage. However, you and I may have a different understanding of the impact of particular events in America's history and how the pandemic exacerbates issues Native Americans face today.

You see, I'm a member of the Diné — or “The People” — what you may call the Navajo Nation of Native Americans. I grew up in the Sweetwater area of Arizona on the Navajo Reservation, but my ancestors came to what is now the United States over a thousand years ago. At an early age, I learned our Navajo traditions, culture, and history as told in stories passed from one generation to the next.

As a teenager, I left the reservation to attend boarding school and then college. There, not everyone shared my thoughts on how historical events — particularly those surrounding America's westward expansion — created the framework for the prejudice, poverty, and despair Native Americans continue to endure today.

3-Minute American History Quiz

Mr. Millington, the “3-Minute American History Quiz” illustrates how policies made nearly 200 years ago still affect the everyday lives of Native Americans. I encourage you to take this quiz and then help us raise awareness by telling your family and friends what you learned.

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1310 E. Riverview Drive • Phoenix, AZ 85034 • (800) 811-6955



