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**Truth  Compassion
Remember Who We Are**

Statement from Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Tribal Chairwoman

I want to take the time to acknowledge the events of yesterday, April 7, 2022 at the ND State Capitol. An outrageous and uncalled for statement was made by an elder Tribal member regarding children born to parents who are enrolled members of Standing Rock. Neither Senator Wardner nor I knew what was going to be said; the statements made about our precious children were unwarranted and untruthful remarks. They were harmful, hurtful, and detrimental to those children, parents and our families. These kinds of statements only perpetuate the stereotypes we encounter and battle against every day. In spite of all the hardships and obstacles our people face, we recognize our children & babies are our greatest gift. They are the future of Standing Rock. I apologize for any hurt and pain this may have caused to all tribal members

I appreciate Senator Richard Wardner (Dist. 37); Chairman of the North Dakota Tribal and State Relations Committee for hosting this meeting. This was the second committee meeting held and important issues were discussed. Issues on the agenda included 9-1-1 Service, Tribal Taxation, and Law Enforcement. I also appreciate Senator Wardner's efforts for being respectful of our culture and allowing for two of our elders to speak. Please keep in mind, these meetings are open to the public.

I want to say I appreciate the Tribal Council members who attended on behalf of our nation. As Elected Tribal leaders we fully understand the importance of relationship building and mutual respect.

However, I ask all our people to be more respectful and courteous of one another. Please, be mindful of the words chosen when speaking to one another.