

For Immediate Release

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Statement on Nevada Native American Voting Effort by Tom Rodgers

Tom Rodgers, a Blackfeet lawyer and a leading national strategist behind the unprecedented Native American voting effort, issued the following statement today on the Nevada vote effort and Pyramid Lake Paiute elder Flora Green voting for the first time during early voting on her reservation:

“This week Flora Green, a 99-year-old Pyramid Lake Paiute woman did not have to travel across time the 96 years since women were granted the right to vote. This week Flora Green did not have to travel across time the 92 years since Native Americans were granted the right to vote. This week Flora Green did not have to travel the 96 miles to Reno, Nevada to place her vote. This week Flora Green walked the 200 hundred yards from her home in Nixon, Nevada to democracy where she cast her vote.

“Almost two years ago my native brothers, Four Directions and I set out on this journey for justice in the land known in Spanish as ‘the mountains covered in snow.’ Now after more battles and more miles traveled we have persevered again in our battle for full equality for our native sisters and brothers. It is a journey that has led us from the plains of the Dakotas, to the saw-toothed peaks of Montana to the high desert of Nevada. It is a personal journey informed by a Blackfeet great grandmother who could not sign her name when asked but rather could only make an X. She could only make her mark. I can only hope that she would be proud to say that her great grand son had made his.

“If the above was not enough poetry it is further demonstrated by the fact that you have an election where the first woman in our nation's history secured her party's nomination for president of the United States. You have a Latino woman running for the United States Senate seat of a former majority leader of the United States Senate. You have three generations of Paiute woman now casting their votes on their native land and you now have the preeminent woman's progressive rights group, Emily's List led by Stephanie Schriock, which is assisting the First Americans in this journey for justice. It only seems appropriate that the last two groups who were granted the right to vote, women and Native Americans, would now be aiding one another.”

Rodgers donates his time pro bono to the Native American voting rights movement. Read more about Tom here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Rodgers