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Forgotten People is a 501(C)(3) registered in the State of Arizona and Navajo Nation. Our members advocate protecting their Sovereignty for Social, Environmental and Economic Justice.

Navajo Times Editorial Rebuttal To Vallerie Crank's Article Re: Forgotten People

The Forgotten People are not against development; it is a question of how can it be done responsibly so that People's desired outcomes are achieved in a just manner; so that in the end, the development leaves a legacy that benefits the People and preserves what matters.

We believe economic development on Navajo Nation is long overdue. It's about creating prosperity for the Dine and it must begin by educating our people about the many alternative economic opportunities available that are aligned with preserving our way of life and traditional values. It's important to offer our people workforce development training to hone skills required to implement, manage and operate holistic solutions that build sustainable and thriving communities.

The basic issues in responsible develop include transparency, consent of the governed, third party monitoring, establishment of best management practices and metrics, indemnification, and social contract.

1. Transparency means opening the process from cradle to grave for community review of any and all documents, proposals and related studies available for the people's analysis.
2. Consent of the governed is more than just having some government official claim that the people have given them a mandate. Consent of the governed means community meetings and clear no-nonsense public forums and referendums put forth by and for the people.
3. Third party monitoring means mutually respected institutions like Universities should review plans and project documents for legality and due process that supports the people's interest.
4. Establishment of best management practices should be trusted as having the community's best interest at heart. They are guidelines of accountability to process.
5. Identifying the metrics means that objective standards must be established and rigorous effort must be exerted by respected third parties to determine if the people's required standards are really being considered and achieved.
6. Indemnification begins with bonding but requires skin in the game. Breaking ground on a school or installing solar power where no power is available for example.
7. Social contracting should come from the developer. Just saying that the government will divert revenue to a desired end just lets the developer off the hook. The government is supposed to do that anyway. The developer needs to say what steps they will take to make sure that the community gets something of

Contact media@forgottennavajopeople.com

MEDIA

855 572-0008

www.forgottennavajopeople.com

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lasting value and not just a few low paying jobs that could dry up tomorrow after the land has forever been desecrated and the developer is nowhere to be found.

Forgotten People believe the Dine who have been displaced and/or deprived of opportunity resulting from the Bennett Freeze deserve better and entitled to be informed and empowered to determine a way of life that is not dictated for them. In closing the Escalade cronies have one thing in common; their own self-interest, and short term gain. We stand for Social, Environmental and Economic Justice and do not support selling out to non-native corporate interests for the sake of Seasonal Tourism.

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