

2011 BLACK MESA WOOD & SUPPLY RUN SOLICITATION LETTER TEMPLATE (please amend it as needed) :



September 26, 2011

Insert name and address of business or persons you are requesting donations from here.

Dear _____,

I am writing you on behalf of Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS), a volunteer-based organization whose mission is to support the indigenous peoples of Black Mesa, AZ who are in their fourth decade of protecting their communities, ancestral homelands, and future generations from massive coal mining operations & forced relocation policies. In the 30+ years of disastrous operations, Dineh and Hopi communities in Arizona have been ravaged by Peabody Energy's coal mines. As a result of the massive mining operation, over 14,000 people have been forcibly relocated from their ancestral homelands. This constitutes the largest relocation of Indigenous people in this country since the Trail of Tears in 1883, and it is ongoing today. For more info visit <http://www.blackmesais.org>

BMIS's work includes sponsoring residents at speaking engagements, boosting local organizing in their communities, working with a regional network to bring more visibility to this struggle, running a year-round sheep herder program and organizing wood & supply runs at Black Mesa. On November 19-26th, 2011, in preparation for the approaching freezing winter temperatures of the remote high-desert terrain of Black Mesa, BMIS is sponsoring its fourth annual caravan to Black Mesa. The caravan is composed of work crews coming to do minor repair work & road maintenance, offer holistic health care, haul water long distances for families and livestock, and herd sheep.

We are requesting (*specify*: food donations/tool/supplies/\$/55 gallon water barrels('food-grade' only)/solar/prepaid gas cards/tires/Home Depot cards for several purposes- tools to repair homes/roads/vehicles/livestock pens with families/ to distribute healthy and organic food to families living on Black Mesa to prepare for the winter and second, to feed work-party volunteers who spend the days working hard to make a lot happen- hauling and chopping wood, sheep herding, cleaning and repairing sheep corrals, among other things. We expect about one hundred volunteers and will be distributing food to hundreds of families (In case you've heard this is in conjunction with Clan Dyken's annual Beauty Way Tour - food & supply run to Black Mesa). Specifically, we are looking for donations in the form of (whatever is specific to the company). We would greatly appreciate if (company name) would further our efforts to support the resisting communities of Black Mesa. *Your help with our event would go a long way to making the supply run successful.* Your contribution goes towards a shift that recognizes our collective humanity and our joint dependence on the Earth.

Thank you for your consideration and I/we hope to hear from you soon. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me. I will follow up with a phone call in the next couple of days.

your name

Black Mesa Indigenous Support; your region, if applicable

your number /your email here

www.blackmesais.org

Black Mesa Indigenous Support is fiscally sponsored by Media Island International and donations are tax deductible. Our 501(c)3 federal tax ID number is **XX-XXXXXXX** (ask us for it).