

JOE BLUE HORSE: Any waiver be given except the ones that was down in Oklahoma. The way we have a whole lot of people that live here in Rapid City that are from Pine Ridge and if they are not eligible because Rapid City has a population of ten thousand considered an urban area, and there is a whole lot of people from Pine Ridge that live here that would qualify for it if they didn't live in Rapid City, and they have to live in Rapid City because there is no housing for them or at Pine Ridge and on the reservation. And we would like to know if some waivers would be given because if they are then they said waivers are possible, but I haven't heard of any being given.

MR. BOST: I can't -- we need an opportunity to see the waiver request. I cannot answer your question until we have an opportunity to see the waiver request. And to my knowledge we have not, I have not seen it for this area. They'd look to the region and they'd review it and they'd make a recommendation to me. If they have not received it, then it has not come to me, so I can't answer your question until I look at it specifically what you are referring to. You are saying you want a waiver and for what; how many people; how much is it going to cost; what's the infrastructure; who will run the program and establish the guidelines; whose going to maintain the integrity of the program? Those are all, just off the top of my head, questions I'll ask when I receive any waiver request for any aspect of the Food Stamp Program. That's why, anyone, any state, any tribe or organization, is able to ask for a waiver, but it first goes to the regional office, and they look at it and make a review, and they make recommendations to me, and I make a decision. You are saying you want to submit a waiver and I'm saying that you are free to do that, but the first thing that needs to happen is it needs to come to the regional office.

JOE BLUE HORSE: We were informed that waivers were not given or we would have done exactly what you said.

MR. BOST: What I have said since I've been Under Secretary is we will consider any waiver request for any aspects of the food stamp program, and we would give the requester a timely response. Just because you ask for it doesn't mean I am going to grant it.

JOE BLUEHORSE: We wanted to know whether it was possible to even put one in. That's what I said.

MR. BOST: Absolutely.

JOE BLUEHORSE: We were told that they were not going to accept it.

MR. BOST: Who told you that?

JOE BLUEHORSE: USDA, Denver.

MR. BOST: Well, USDA --

JOE BLUEHORSE: It wasn't Darlene. Before that.

MR. BOST: If you are interested in submitting a waiver, I would encourage you to do so.