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### **Collecting Items Related to the Cowboy and Indian Alliance Protests**

An offer of a gift of a painted tipi from the Cowboy Indian Alliance was considered and approved at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Curatorial Council on March 27, 2014. On Saturday, April 26, 2014, American Indian Nations' leaders with the Cowboy Indian Alliance will deliver a tipi painted by renowned Lakota artist Steve Tamayo in a mix of traditional and contemporary Lakota symbols and imagery. Museum staff will greet the tribal leaders and exchange gifts with them as is customary. The Cowboy Indian Alliance states, "Tribal leaders are gifting a tipi to the National Museum of the American Indian that represents their hopes for protected land and clean water."

The Smithsonian has an ongoing commitment to document the spirit of American democracy and the American political process, including how people express their points of view through political rallies, demonstrations and protests. For example, Smithsonian's National Museum of American History has collected materials from Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns and political conventions since the late 1980s. The American History Museum has also collected from the "Occupy Wall Street" movement, the Tea Party rally on the National Mall, Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally, Jon Stewart's "Rally to Restore Sanity" and most recently from the American Conservative Union's CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) in February. This is part of the Smithsonian's long tradition of documenting how Americans participate in the life of the Nation.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian is committed to documenting Native Americans' participation in the Nation's life. Among the Museum's current collections are objects documenting American Indian Nations' delegations petitioning Congress

and the White House throughout history, as well as 20th century American Indian Treaty Rights protests and the American Indian Rights movement. In its exhibition opening Sept. 21, 2014, “Nation to Nation: Treaties between the United States and American Indian Nations,” 19th century photographs of American Indian Nations’ Delegations in Washington, D.C., posters from the 1960s Treaty Fishing Rights protests, and buttons and bumper stickers from the 1960s and 1970s American Indian Rights movement will be on display.

The Museum has assigned staff to attend the protests and collect ephemera (i.e. posters, buttons and banners) related to the Cowboy Indian Alliance as part of the historical record. There are no plans for display.

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**About the Museum:** The National Museum of the American Indian is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere—past, present, and future—through partnership with Native peoples and others. The museum works to support the continuance of culture, traditional values, and transitions in contemporary Native life.