



MINNESOTA INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION

May 18, 2022

Chairwoman Rosen and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, and our 10-member Tribal Nations, seek to clarify our current position on the topic of legal sports wagering in Minnesota and on HF778, the bill under consideration by the Committee today.

HF778's current form (6th Engrossment) is the result of a robust stakeholder consultation process in which MIGA tribes were asked to participate. Legislators in both chambers and from both parties came to tribes and asked them to consider support for the development of a legal sports betting market. For many months, Tribal Leaders worked diligently to understand potential impacts before joining together and tentatively offering support for HF778.

Through the stakeholder process, Rep. Stephenson, Rep. Garofalo and others crafted a bill that accomplishes the goal of providing a safe and competitive marketplace for Minnesota sports bettors without threatening the viability of tribal gaming in the state. **Therefore, nine of the ten MIGA tribes offer their full and active support for the current version of HF778, while one member of the Association does not. If amended by the A-22 amendment, which expands commercial gaming, all ten MIGA tribes would then oppose the legislation.**

MIGA's members are distinct sovereign tribal governments which are not always in agreement on how proposed legislative policies may affect their business operations. This clarified statement ensures that all our member's voices are respected and represented.

HF778 is based on a recognition that tribal gaming has an unblemished reputation and expertise in conducting gambling and thus entrusts tribes to exclusively operate as sports betting license holders. But to be clear, MIGA has consistently opposed the expansion of non-tribal commercial gaming and will continue to do so. This opposition seeks to protect the gaming industry that today serves as the essential tax base tribal governments and communities rely on.

Thank you for your consideration of HF778 and the respectful engagement with the state's sovereign tribal nations on this topic.

Andy Platto

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Platto", written in a cursive style.

Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association