

Stephanie Chappell  
2401 14<sup>th</sup> Street E  
Glencoe MN 55336

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Minnesota House & Senate Capital Investment Committees

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Dear Members:

HF2207 & SF2009 Urban Indigenous Legacy Initiative opens the door to fraud in three ways.

Section 1, Subd. 1 language of “critical” and “abandoned” do not equate to the bill’s requests. If critical, the need should not be one that can be abandoned. Critical needs to any group do not include museums, religious or theatrical buildings which is what the bill asks for. Projects overlap and rather than serving critical needs, projects serve federally recognized tribes and their members rather than Indigenous peoples. Not all Indigenous people are tribal members.

Sections 4 and 12 have already received funding for the same reason in HF670.

Section 12 Lower Phalen Creek’s Wakan Tipi Center

In HF670 Lower Phalen Creek’s Wakan Tipi Center (to the City of St. Paul) appropriation \$2.5 million for “construction of a reception area, classrooms, permanent and temporary exhibit space, community gathering area, and gallery space...in addition to the appropriation in Laws 2020, Fifth Special Session chapter 3, article 1, section 17, subdivision 11, for the same purpose.”

HF2207/SF2009’s \$2.5 million purpose is the same, “a reception area, classrooms, permanent and temporary exhibit space, a community gather area, and gallery space.”

Section 4 Ain Dah Yung Center

Ain Dah Yung Center (HF670) appropriation of \$2.2 million is for “tuckpointing, electric upgrades, ADA access, emergency fire escape, and bathroom renovation for the emergency shelter. This appropriation also includes money for roof replacement, electric upgrades, and ADA access for the youth lodge.”

HF2207/SF2009’s \$2.2 million purpose is the same “tuckpointing, Americans with Disabilities Act access compliance, and improvements to the building’s foundation...new roof and gutters and replacement of the rear deck and walkways.”

Finally, nonprofits in this bill support racism. At a publicly owned State Historic Site, Historic Fort Snelling, I was verbally assaulted with racial slurs by Dakota nonprofit Oyate Hotanin Board President Crystal Norcross. Social media death threats were supported by Lower Phalen Creek Project’s Cultural Resource Manager, Franky Jackson. Amanda Young of the Dakota nonprofit sector used social media to solicit funds for more racial violence as part of environmental cleanup activities. Violence, threats, and intimidation is not to be publicly funded including that which silences free speech on state property.

Thank you,

  
Stephanie Chappell