



Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

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Cansayapi Otunwe

March 3, 2023

Sen. Nick Frentz, Chairperson
Energy, Utilities, Environment & Climate Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55103
Sent via electronic mail to: Justin.Emmerich@Senate.MN

Re: Senate File 1968

Dear Chairperson Frentz,

On behalf of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota (“Community”), I relay support of Senate File 1968 that authorizes the Department of Commerce to assist a Tribal advocacy council on energy established by the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota.

This bill supports a seat at the table for Tribal Nations to develop and implement community-based energy programs. Prior Department of Commerce consultation with Tribal Nations reveal that energy is an important area of interest for tribes. As caretakers of Minnesota, it is of paramount importance to tribes to protect Mother Earth, see the reduction of greenhouse gases and carbon reduction, and address climate change while looking to sustainable and renewable energy.

Tribal Nations continue to experience profound inequities in energy costs and choices. The tribal energy council would connect Tribal Nations with one another to share ideas, resources, hold conversations, strategies and possibly tribal utilities commissions all around energy, while having the technical support of the Department of Commerce while respecting tribal sovereignty and moving the needle towards a more equitable model for addressing energy-related inequities facing Tribal Nations.

The Department of Commerce would help to support the tribal energy council by providing technical assistance in many ways, including but not limited to sharing information and resources. This is an opportunity for another great tribal and state partnership.

The Community supports a tribal energy council and as always, our Community looks forward to the future, for future generations to come as we strive to make the best decisions based on that mindset.

Pidamaya-do,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert L. Larsen
President