

April 4, 2023

Dear Sen. Mary Kunes and Rep. Alicia Koziowski, Member of the Legislature,

As an elder and tribal member of the White Earth Reservation, I am helping to seek the monetary support for the Giiwednong building to be operated as a museum project located in Park Rapids, MN.

It would be an honor to be included in the history of the North Country as members of our community here in Pine Point on the White Earth Reservation have all attended the Area High School that is located across the street from this building.

Many of our members that graduated from this school have gone on to becoming leaders in our own community such as Tribal Council members, Principals, Boxing and Baseball Coaches. During my time as a student there, and for our survival, I and many of our members have participated in harvesting wild rice, potatoes, logging, and maple sugaring. This is a culture and history that many non-native students and community members were/are unaware of.

By displaying our ways of life for our neighbors, they will have a better understanding of who we are. The Giiwednong museum will be a place that will tell our story. I urge you to help support this historical project.

Thank you,

Evelyn Bellanger