March 13th, 2023

Rep. Melissa Wiklund, Chairwoman
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue, Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chairwoman Wiklund,

On behalf of the nine member tribes of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), thank you for your consideration of SF1949, a bill to legalize sports wagering. Since the Murphy V. NCAA Supreme Court decision in 2018, MIGA Tribes and their leaders have monitored the impact legal sports betting has had on existing gaming operations in other states, most importantly those operations run by tribal governments. The experiences and lessons learned elsewhere have helped MIGA Tribes understand just how important the details and structure of legislation authorizing sports wagering are to existing gaming interests like tribal governments.

Were SF1949, as currently drafted, to become law, MIGA Tribes believe the resulting mobile and retail markets operated by Minnesota's Tribal Nations would not only support Tribes, but would also provide a well-regulated and accessible market for the state's sportsbettors and a competitive market that is important to our state's professional sports teams and market partners.

Gaming revenues produce the essential tax base Tribes rely on to fund basic and essential government services for thousands of tribal members. Any time the state changes the gaming landscape, Tribes must carefully consider whether such proposals strengthen or, in fact, threaten tribal sovereignty and self-determination. MIGA Tribes look forward to continually monitoring the bill's progress and offering refinements to improve the language as it moves through the process.

MIGA, its members, and representatives again thank Sen. Klein, Chair Wiklund and the Health and Human Services Committee for recognition that tribal gaming deserves to be protected and must be preserved. As the proposal moves through the legislature we look forward to working with you and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Andy Platto
Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Gaming Association