

WHITE EARTH RESERVATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE
WHITE EARTH BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
Resolution No. 064-24-051

- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Reservation pursuant to Article VI, Section 1, of the revised constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and organized under Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is the duly authorized governing body of the White Earth Band, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee finds that the Band's children are treasured resources who are vital to the ongoing welfare and prosperity of the White Earth Band, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee is charged with the responsibility of protecting and advocating of the health and welfare of White Earth Band members regardless of where the Band members reside, and
- WHEREAS,** the White Earth Reservation Business Committee finds that the State of Minnesota has historically failed to comply with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act resulting in widespread removal of White Earth Children from their homes, extended families and Tribes, and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was enacted to address severely disproportionate rates of out of home placement and adoption of American Indian and Alaskan Native children and youth by setting minimal standards petitioners must meet, and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Minnesota enacted the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) in 1985, with amendments in 2015 and 2023, to strengthen and enhance the protections of the ICWA for Indian children and their families in state court proceedings, and
- WHEREAS,** the compliance with both ICWA and MIFPA has been deficient resulting in continuation of severely disproportionate rates of out of home placement and adoption of Indian children and youth, and
- WHEREAS,** the work group comprised of representatives from the Tribes in Minnesota, the Minnesota County Attorney's Association, Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators, Association of Minnesota Counties, organizations that provide services and support to Indian families, and others met to continue to identify areas for improvement and create legislation to further protect Indian children and families, and

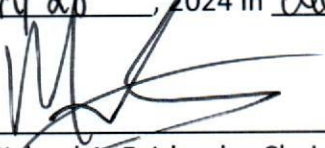
WHEREAS, the work group has proposed changes to the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (Minn. Stat 260.), Minnesota Juvenile Protection Provisions of the Juvenile Court Act (Minn. Stat. 260C), and other areas of Minnesota law including chapters 257C, 259, 260D, 260E, and 524-201 to 524.5-211, and

WHEREAS, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee has reviewed and supports the proposed legislative changes, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby approves the proposed legislation to amend Minnesota Laws Affecting Custody of Indian Children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the White Earth Reservation Business Committee hereby authorizes the Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Director and/or Child Welfare Director to provide testimony before the Minnesota Legislature in support of the proposed changes.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 for, 6 against, 0 silent, a quorum being present at a regular meeting of the White Earth Reservation Business Committee held on February 28, 2024 in Wishnemen, Minnesota.



Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman



Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer