

April 23, 2025

Senate Finance Chair, Sen. John Marty
3235 Minnesota Senate Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155



RE: Senate Environment bill: Article 4, section 47
Sustainable Foraging Taskforce

Dear Sen. Marty and members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate File 2077: Article 4, Section 47 which proposes legislation establishing a task force on sustainable foraging. As a chef, educator, and advocate for Indigenous food systems, I have spent my career working to revitalize and promote traditional ecological knowledge, including the respectful and sustainable harvesting of wild foods.

Foraging has sustained Indigenous communities for generations. It is a practice deeply rooted in reciprocity, seasonality, and stewardship of the land. As more people rediscover the value of wild foods—for health, culture, and connection to place—it is critical that we ensure these practices are carried out in a way that protects state ecosystems, respects Indigenous rights and ensures Minnesotans have access to state lands for sustainable foraging.

Creating a task force dedicated to sustainable foraging is a forward-thinking step. It provides an opportunity to bring together tribal voices, ecologists, DNR land managers, foraging experts and community members to share expertise and develop guidelines that support both biodiversity and cultural resilience.

I commend Sen. Pha and her coauthors of this legislation for recognizing the importance of thoughtful, inclusive stewardship of our natural resources. I urge lawmakers to support the formation of this task force, and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to its efforts.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to sustainability and equity.

Sincerely,

Sean Sherman

Founder, The Sioux Chef

James Beard Award–Winning Chef and Author