



161 Rondo Avenue, Suite 919  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55113

March 31, 2025

RE: Support for HF791

Dear Chair Xiong,

The mission of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) is to protect the sovereignty of the eleven Minnesota Tribal Nations and to ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state of Minnesota. MIAC is the official liaison between state and tribal government and its executive board consists of the elected tribal leaders.

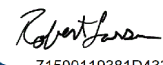
The Minnesota Council of Indian Affairs have been introduced to the Science Museum of Minnesota's ongoing effort to have *Castoroides ohioensis* (Ćapa in Dakota and Amik in Ojibwe) named as Minnesota's official state fossil. We would like to extend our support of this endeavor.


The likely interaction between Ćapa/Amik and the first peoples of Minnesota makes this a good choice to represent its ancient life and connect with its modern culture. The living beaver is important to healthy wetlands across this state, and the presence of this ancient relative across much of Minnesota shows its importance as well. Establishing a state symbol for this animal would open new paths for education around the natural heritage of fossils, and hopefully connect people further to its deep history.

As representatives of the sovereign tribal nations within Minnesota, we identify and support the importance of *Castoroides ohioensis* in our state's narrative, and believe it to be a fossil candidate that would have the support of our respective communities.

Therefore, The Council encourages you to advance legislation that formally designates Ćapa/Amik as Minnesota's official state fossil, thereby honoring our land's past and inspiring future generations to cherish and protect our natural treasures.

Pidamaya, Thank you,

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President Robert L. Larsen  
Lower Sioux Indian Community  
Board Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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Shannon Geshick  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council