

GRAND PORTAGE RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

Norman W. Deschampe - Chairman • John Morrin - Vice Chairman • April McCormick - Secretary/Treasurer Marie Spry - Councilwoman • Arvid Dahl - Councilman

June 27, 2013

Brenda Halter, Forest Superior 8901 Grand Avenue Place Duluth, MN 55605

Dear Brenda Halter:

We have concerns about the Traditional Cultural Properties identified in the NorthMet Project Area.

It appears as though the Traditional Cultural Properties have been segmented as individual parcels of land rather than viewing each tract as part of a whole district. The Traditional Cultural Properties that have been identified within the NorthMet Project Area should be defined as part of a district that is connected by trail corridors and waterways. These highways (including the Height of the Land Portage) made travel possible between and ultimately connected communities, sacred sites, sugar bush, hunting, fishing and ricing areas. Ojibwe people travelling between seasonal camps would have historically and still do consider whole areas as home and not separate sites.

This area is very significant to our culture historically and currently. The significance and integrity of the area as a district are supported by archeological sites, the GLO survey notes and Trygg maps, oral histories, photographic evidence, written records from the fur trade era, and early mineral and timber prospecting activities that document long term use by the Ojibwe.

We would like to host a meeting in Grand Portage to discuss these concerns with you.

Thank you,

Norman W. Deschampe, Chairman

Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council

