

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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March 15, 2023

Chair Moller
Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

I am writing today to offer my full support of H.F. 2173 -- legislation that modifies requirements for Tribes and allows for concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction on tribal lands regardless of whether a cooperative agreement exists.

This important legislation finishes the work started in 2019 when the Minnesota Legislature recognized Prairie Island Indian Community's concurrent jurisdictional authority to enforce state criminal law within the boundaries of their community.

This bill supports similar interests that the Tribe and state have as sovereigns to serve and protect their communities. Tribal police officers are trained to the same standards and expectations as every other licensed law enforcement officer in the State of Minnesota and I have full confidence in these law enforcement professionals to serve their communities. At a time when recruitment, retention, and morale are low among law enforcement agencies, it is important we support each other in our missions to serve and protect.

Thank you for hearing H.F. 2173. Please let me know if there is any further assistance I or the Department of Public Safety can offer the committee on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Jacobson".

Bob Jacobson
Commissioner