

Stephanie Chappell
2401 14th Street E
Glencoe MN 55336

Minnesota House Ways and Means Committee
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Dear Members:

HF1999 Article 1 Section 2 Item (q) Upper Sioux Community Habitat Restoration on the 1st Engrossment at page 18 lines 18 to 28 needs to be stricken from the Omnibus Legacy bill because it does not abide by Lessard-Sams statute. No legislation, state or federal, exists to acknowledge the land within Item (q) will ever become “tribal land.” This is an example of the horse before the cart.

Lessard-Sams requires its recommendations to be permanent and the DNR cannot promise this. Once the land is given to the Tribe, the land is not bound by any State law, only Federal. These funds will demolish existing buildings and sites created through bonding funds for public enjoyment; Lessard-Sams is not intended for this purpose.

Within a 19 page analysis supporting HF2388/SF2250, nonprofit MN Historical Society misleads



legislators by stating a historic site is “adjacent” to the park. The Agency Historic Site within the Park includes building remnants and one building still standing. State Administration has not been included in transfer discussion per the DNR’s presentation. Only the State can decommission state assets and update the National Register.

Statute 86A.055 states no unit of Outdoor Recreation System can be sold/conveyed for the purpose of general fund reduction. Upper Sioux Agency State Park is a unit of the MN Outdoor Recreation System.

Commissioner Strommen detailed legislation is needed for a \$250,000 defeasance in addition to all other legislation.

There is no local or regional support for this bill in either body. Local residents had no knowledge as noted by the mayor of Granite Falls in written testimony.

Several items must happen before Lessard-Sams can be used to demolish a 19th century building on tribal lands:

1. \$250,000 defeasance approval; funds used to improve campground facilities.
2. Removal of Land Water Conservation funds.
3. Project approval by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
4. Changes to legislation including chapters 86A and 138.
5. Proposed legislation to transfer a historic site to a federal entity resulting in permanent closure of a state park.

For these reason, HF1999 Article 1 Section 2 Item (q) cannot be included in any Omnibus Legacy bill.

Thank you,

Stephanie Chappell