



INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 11102020_01

Title

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of the federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state department, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to the American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, American Indian/Alaska Native people are citizens of, or descendants of citizens of sovereign nations, and possess a unique political status that is not racial or ethnic in nature; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has an ethical and moral responsibility to safeguard our water, lands, and resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, each of the eleven Tribal Governments in the state of Minnesota are sovereign nations with the intent to serve their tribal members in a manner that will provide fair and equitable services; and

WHEREAS, there are profound inequities in energy costs and choices, a disparate energy burden experienced by American Indians and the energy and weather assistance models alone, have proven ineffective to reduce these inequities; and

WHEREAS, the unique land status of Tribes does not meet tax incentive criteria for renewable energy installation creating financing challenges; and

WHEREAS, the eleven Tribal Governments sharing geography with Minnesota have identified a critical need to be energy independent, provide alternative options for tribal members, reduce the energy burden of tribal members, create a clean and energy efficient future for the generations to come, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota statute 216C.381 COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM describes the creation of Community Energy Councils inclusive of Tribal Government officials as a member not acknowledging the sovereign rights of Tribal Governments to establish an energy council that is reflective of the unique status of tribal nations, made up of tribally appointed representatives; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal Energy Council would be afforded the same council powers and duties provided in Minnesota Statute 216C.381 Subd.3 inclusive of tribal ordinances; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal Energy Council would be afforded the department assistance provided in Minnesota Statute 216C.381 Subd.4; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal Energy Council implements improved energy practices including conservation, greater efficiency in energy use, the use of alternative resources, networking; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal Energy Council is a consultative body that makes policy recommendations to Minnesota Cabinet agencies, Commerce, MPCA, PUC, Subcabinets or others in regard to energy related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council reminds the State Agencies of the Governor's Executive Order regarding Government-to-Government relationships with Tribal Nations, which requires consultation, coordination, and cooperation prior to any legislative or policy changes being implemented;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Minnesota Indian Affairs Council acknowledges Minnesota Department of Commerce Tribal Liaison will actively support a Tribal Energy Council, Commerce technical staff and experts will be available; and

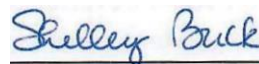
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minnesota Indian Affairs Council recognizes Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner may provide professional and financial assistance to Tribal Governments to establish a Tribal Energy Council, within available resources; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports a Tribal Energy Council, with representation appointed by each of the eleven Tribal Governments, to be developed and led by tribally appointed representatives

CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on November 10, 2020 at Grand Portage, MN.



Robert. L Larsen, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



Shelley Buck, Vice Chairwoman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council