



March 14th, 2022

Chair Schultz, Members of the Committee, my name is Andy Platto and I am the Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association or MIGA. MIGA represents 10 of the 11 tribes in Minnesota and appreciates the ability to provide comments to HF167, Chair Stephenson's bill to authorize sports wagering.

Since the federal law prohibiting states from legalizing sports wagering was overturned in 2018, Minnesota tribes and their leaders have closely watched as other states, including those surrounding Minnesota, have provided a legal marketplace for sports betters. Of particular importance has been the impact sports wagering has had on other tribal gaming operations, as gaming provides the economic lifeblood of tribal governments, tribal communities and the 10s of thousands of Minnesotans they employ. Upon review, in many cases the impact of sports wagering expansion has been a positive one, but only when the authorizing legislation is carefully crafted to ensure that tribes play a critical role in bringing the marketplace to consumers.

Tribal leaders continue to review the proposed bill and hope to soon be as comfortable with the details as they currently are with the general framework. **But in concept, HF167 does recognize that tribes, as the state's gaming experts, are best positioned to operate Minnesota's sports betting market, both in retail and mobile environments. For these reasons, I am pleased to ask the Committee to approve the bill today.** MIGA and individual tribes will continue to offer their input in good faith as the bill moves through the process.

Tribal Leaders and staff would like to offer our thanks to Chair Stephenson for his respectful engagement on this issue and wish to continue our conversations with the Legislature and other stakeholders, to ensure any expansion of off-reservation gaming benefits both tribes and the Minnesota sports betting public.

Madame Chair, and Members, thank you again for the ability to provide comments and for your willingness to consider tribal voices throughout this process.

Andy Platto

Andy Platto,
Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association