



INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 02202024_03

Including the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in

Minn. Stat. § 10.65, subd. 2(1)

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of 10 of the 11 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 American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, American Indian populations are often identified by the various federal and state agencies as a minority and smallest ethnic group in the United States, and

WHEREAS, American Indian 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 state of Minnesota and Tribal Governments significantly benefit from regular, timely, and meaningful consultations on matters of mutual interest; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regulates electric, natural gas, and telephone utilities that provide essential services to members of the Indian Tribes that make up the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council; and

WHEREAS, consultation has proven to be a valuable tool to better understand the impacts of the work of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; and


WHEREAS, consultation with Indian Tribes helps to build a more complete record for Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decisions, ensures that tribal interests are heard and recognized, and improves outcomes for tribal members; and

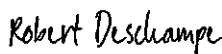
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is not required by law to consult with Indian Tribes, but has voluntarily done so since 2019 in recognition of the value provided by such consultation; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has informed tribal chairs of its intention to propose legislation to legally require the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to continue the practice of consultation with Indian Tribes in the future; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports the proposal of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to amend state law to require regular consultation with Indian Tribes.

CERTIFICATION: CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 6 For, 0 Against, 1 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on February 20, 2024, at Tower, Minnesota.

DocuSigned by:

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Robert. L Larsen, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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Robert Deschampe, Vice Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council