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Ref: HF1389 Debt defeasance of State bond and transfer of State-owned land given to U of MN
for transfer to sovereign nation

Members of the House State Government Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Members,

I OPPOSE HF1389. The State of Minnesota is facing a budget deficit as is the University of Minnesota. The U of MN is being investigated by the federal government. While I understand the Cloquet Forestry Center land was once part of the 1854 Treaty, the land belonged to other tribes before 1854. The U of MN has not taken into consideration that other tribes are entitled to the area. The Chippewa violently pushed other tribes out of the area and if this is an issue of ownership, then tribes who used the land prior to the tribe who signed a treaty in 1854 are the rightful owners.

Indian belief does not define ownership; rather it is land use of tribes in a seasonal method that was fought for. The very idea of transferring land in an ownership method is insulting to Indigenous culture, laws, and beliefs.

Further, using taxpayer funds to pay off/"defease" the remaining loan/bond on the property is ludicrous and **wastes** taxpayer dollars. Every session of late, uses taxpayer funds to pay for remaining bonds or capital investment on property, to do nothing more than transfer the property out of Minnesota public use. This action is a true **waste** and teeters on **fraud and abuse** of taxpayer funds.

Another tribe has offered money for land. That land has none of the resources compared to the Cloquet parcel. If the State wants to allow sovereign nations to purchase land, allow these nations to pay all fees as if it were a real estate transaction. Tribes can produce the funds since they hold a written casino/gambling compact with the State of Minnesota.

Finally, I feel there is a conflict of interest in Representative Kozlowski's involvement with this bill. Being they is a member as is their mother of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the federally recognized tribe to receive the land (SF1754, 1st Engrossment, lines 1.9 and 1.10), the motives behind the bill create an opportunity for personal and familial financial gain.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Chappell