



161 Saint Anthony Avenue ste.919
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

March 9, 2023

Representative Kelly Moller
Chair, Public Safety Finance and Policy
509 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council consists of the elected leadership of the federally recognized tribal nations in the state of Minnesota and is the official liaison agency between state and tribal governments. Our mission is to protect the sovereignty of the tribal nations and to ensure the *wellbeing of all American Indian citizens*. Today, we write in strong support of HF 1877 (Becker-Finn), a modification to the definition of “park zone” in the controlled substance statutes.

The language seeks to close a small gap in our state’s Controlled Substances Laws, Minn. Statute Chapter 152 by including “a federally recognized Indian Tribe” in the list of governments that can designate an area a “park zone.” This modification simply guarantees that a park established by a tribal government is treated the same as any other park and that all children share equal protections.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
Chairman Deschampe
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Robert Deschampe
Chairman, Grand Portage Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa
Vice Chair, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

DocuSigned by:
Shannon Geshick
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Shannon Geshick
Executive Director, MIAC

cc: Robert Larsen, President, Lower Sioux Indian Community
Nizhoni Smith, General Council Lower Sioux Indian Community