

March 17, 2021

Dear Chair Nelson and House State Government & Elections Committee
Members:

HF903 Government to government relationship with MN Tribal Nations is duplicitous and unnecessary. “Minnesota Tribal Nations” were organized at a Federal level. Members of these units receive special attention within the United States government.

The State of Minnesota already collaborates with all eleven sovereign nations regarding issues: Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Minnesota Advisory Council, and other areas as created by statute.

The State provides ample opportunities for tribal inclusion.

It is the responsibility of each tribal nation to gather and approach the State under one liaison.

Lastly, HF903 does not represent all Indigenous Minnesotans.

The State of Minnesota should not enable discrimination of Indigenous Minnesotans as do federally recognized tribes. Not all lineal descendants of a tribe are afforded membership in a tribe. Tribal governments reserve the right to refuse membership for any reason.

Please discontinue HF903 from further consideration in the legislature.

Thank you for your attention and time to this matter,

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