



February 15th, 2023

Rep. Zack Stephenson, Chairman
House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chairman Stephenson,

On behalf of the nine member tribes of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA), thank you for sharing your draft legislation to legalize sports wagering. Since the Murphy V. NCAA Supreme Court decision in 2018, MIGA Tribes and their leaders have monitored the impact legal sports betting has had on existing gaming operations in other states, most importantly those operations run by tribal governments. The experiences and lessons learned elsewhere have helped MIGA Tribes understand just how important the details and structure of legislation authorizing sports wagering are to existing gaming interests like tribal governments.

Were your bill to become law, MIGA Tribes believe the resulting mobile and retail markets operated by Minnesota's Tribal Nations would not only support Tribes, but would also provide a well-regulated and accessible market for the state's sportsbettors and a competitive market that is important to our state's professional sports teams and market partners.

Gaming revenues produce the essential tax base Tribes rely on to fund basic and essential government services for thousands of tribal members. Any time the state changes the gaming landscape, Tribes must carefully consider whether such proposals strengthen or, in fact, threaten tribal sovereignty and self-determination. MIGA Tribes look forward to continually monitoring the bill's progress and offering refinements to improve the language as it moves through the process.

MIGA, its members, and representatives again thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your recognition that tribal gaming deserves respect and must be preserved. As this proposal moves through the legislative process, we look forward to working with you and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Platto".

Andy Platto
Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Gaming Association