

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 12, 2024

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Property Tax Division Committee  
Chairman, Dave Lislegard

The Honorable Chairman Lislegard, and Members of the Property Tax Division Committee,  
and all Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I write on behalf of Hennepin County to share our strong support for Red Lake Nation College, in Minneapolis, and their request for a property tax exemption through H.F. No. 4301 and S.F. No. 4380.

Hennepin County is excited Red Lake Nation College has located in downtown Minneapolis, since their mission to serve the Native community in Hennepin County with education, job training, culture, language and pride, is perfectly aligned with our mission to serve residents through transformative services that reduce disparities, eliminate inequities, and create opportunity for all. It is an excellent long-term organization that benefits everyone.

This property tax exemption for Red Lake Nation College for 2021 and 2022 are only possible through special legislation since, without special legislation, the school must follow the tax status of the owners at the time of purchase. In the case of Red Lake Nation College, their tax status does not match that of the previous owners. Therefore, Red Lake Nation College is being charged the regular tax rate of the previous owners.

We see Red Lake Nation College as a crucial piece of the Minnesota higher education landscape. Given the College's unique mission, and the fact they serve a market that no one else is serving, we fully support their tax exemption request.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando  
Chair, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**  
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