

Stephanie Chappell
2401 14th Street E
Glencoe MN 55336

Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy
Committee

Regarding HF274 Flag and Seal Redesign
February 19, 2023

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members,

HF274 (Freiberg) is premature. There has been no task force or commission to gather input from all sections of Minnesota and not formal determination for a new flag and seal design.

Previous testimony has relayed a single negative perspective of the current flag and seal depicting an Indigenous man leaving the state and a farmer armed with a gun while invading soil stolen from Indigenous peoples. Unfortunately, this depiction is unable to consistently identify the waterfall in the background (Minnehaha or St. Anthony) or realize the only armed man in the scene is the Indigenous man, not the farmer.

HF274's biggest flaw is the sec. 6 committee appointments that exclude more than 80% of Minnesota's demographic and include nonprofit executives with no required expertise or knowledge of Minnesota. Nonprofit Minnesota Historical Society's Executive Director has no training specific to Minnesota; Explore Minnesota Tourism's director, by MN statute 116U.05 requires nothing specific to Minnesota. Minnesota Arts Board and Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board follow suit. Meanwhile, all Caucasians of Scandinavian heritage are excluded along with scores of others not represented by a specific government created council.

Rebranding a state under pressure from nonprofits and select demographics is unfair. The current state flag and seal represents Minnesota's beauty and placement at the head of the Mississippi by inclusion of St. Anthony Falls, incorporates the United States Constitutional rights including the right to keep and bear arms, optimal use of natural resources and creativity to advance technologies in milling for the benefit of the world while finding a way to co-exist side by side from one day to the next.

Recent history proves some nonprofits have disingenuous missions that defraud One Minnesota.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Chappell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Chappell