



Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

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Cansayapi Otunwe

February 20, 2023

Patty Acomb, Chairperson
House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: House File 1918

Dear Madame Chair Acomb,

On behalf of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota (“Community”), I relay support of House File 1918 that authorizes the Department of Commerce to assist a Tribal advocacy council on energy established by the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota.

This bill supports a seat at the table for Tribal Nations to develop and implement community-based energy programs. Prior Department of Commerce consultation with Tribal Nations reveal that energy is an important area of interest for tribes. As caretakers of Minnesota, it is of paramount importance to tribes to protect Mother Earth, see the reduction of greenhouse gases and carbon reduction, and address climate change while looking to sustainable and renewable energy.

Tribal Nations continue to experience profound inequities in energy costs and choices. The tribal energy council would connect Tribal Nations with one another to share ideas, resources, hold conversations, strategies, & possibly tribal utilities commissions all around energy, all while having the technical support of the Department of Commerce while respecting tribal sovereignty and moving the needle towards a more equitable model for addressing energy-related inequities facing Tribal Nations.

The Department of Commerce would help to support the tribal energy council by providing technical assistance in many ways, including but not limited to sharing information and resources. This is an opportunity for another great tribal and state partnership.

The Community supports a tribal energy council and as always, our Community looks toward the future, for future generations to come as we strive to make the best decisions based on that.

Pidamaya-do,

Robert L. Larsen
President