



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Michael LaRoque
DISTRICT I Henry Fox **DISTRICT II** Eugene Sommers **DISTRICT III** Laura Lee Erickson

HF-2411 White Earth Community Cultural Center

White Earth Tribal leadership is writing to express our strong support for the establishment of a cultural center that would serve the Callaway area on the White Earth Reservation. This center would play a vital role in preserving and revitalizing the traditions, languages, and histories of our communities while fostering greater understanding and collaboration among non-enrolled residents of the region.

A dedicated cultural center would offer a space for intergenerational learning, community events, the celebration of identity, and helping to preserve our traditions for future generations.

Beyond its cultural significance, the proposed center would host workshops, cultural events for all ages such as drum/dance gatherings, ceremonies, educational and health classes, and it could create employment opportunities and house offices to provide services to the community. The center could provide access to essential services and promote community well-being. The proposed cultural center will bring community together and connect them to in-person, it will also foster community and contribute to overall community well-being. This facility will be the community's hub.

The cultural center will include a large open concept area, kitchen area, bathrooms, utility room, storage room, two dedicated office areas for administrative functions and health related office and a smaller community space.

White Earth Nation has established programs and staff that can provide services to meet the needs of the community members. A new center will offer a permanent and reliable space to deliver the essential services the community needs.

Transit services are limited on the Reservation and without a vehicle it can take a whole day for community members to access these services in other Reservation communities. Having a center in Callaway allows the services to be brought to the community and will ensure community members have access to cultural events and services.

We respectfully request your support to bring this vision to life. An investment in these cultural centers is an investment in the resilience and strength of our tribal communities and a meaningful step toward honoring their rightful place in our shared history.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support.