

March 25, 2025

Minnesota State Legislature

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2411 – Legacy Funding for White Earth Tribal Community Cultural Center

Dear Honorable Legislators,

As an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, I am writing to express my support for HF 2411, which allocates \$5,000,000 from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund in the fiscal year 2026 to construct a cultural center for the White Earth Tribal Community. This investment is crucial for preserving, celebrating, and revitalizing Anishinaabe culture, which is integral to the identity, health, and overall well-being of our people.

For generations, our language, ceremonies, art, and oral history have nurtured our community. They unite us by instilling respect for the land and for one another while also promoting resilience. Like many other Indigenous cultures, ours faces the threat of gradual disintegration due to historical traumas, systemic inequalities, and the pressures of assimilation. A White Earth Community Cultural Center would serve as a vital space to:

- **Preserve** our endangered traditions by housing language programs, archiving culturally significant items, and documenting the knowledge of our elders.
- **Educate** future generations and the public about Anishinaabe culture, history, and contributions to Minnesota.
- **Heal** through cultural reconnection, addressing intergenerational trauma by restoring pride in identity.
- **Celebrate** our living culture through art, dance, storytelling, and community gatherings.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund was established to honor Minnesota's diverse heritage, and there is no more urgent or diverse way to utilize these resources than by supporting the cultures indigenous to Minnesota. The White Earth Nation, Minnesota's largest tribal community and the second most populous, has long needed a dedicated space that accurately reflects the richness of its heritage and its importance to the state's history.

I strongly encourage you to support HF 2411 and ensure this funding benefits our community and the state. This center will preserve the Anishinaabe culture for future generations while also enriching the experience of Minnesotans by fostering an appreciation and respect for the enduring legacy of Indigenous peoples.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dolly Boswell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Dolly Boswell

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