



## INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL      RESOLUTION 11102020\_01

### Title

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of the federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state department, and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to the American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native people are citizens of, or descendants of citizens of sovereign nations, and possess a unique political status that is not racial or ethnic in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council has an ethical and moral responsibility to safeguard our water, lands, and resources for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, each of the eleven Tribal Governments in the state of Minnesota are sovereign nations with the intent to serve their tribal members in a manner that will provide fair and equitable services; and

**WHEREAS**, there are profound inequities in energy costs and choices, a disparate energy burden experienced by American Indians and the energy and weather assistance models alone, have proven ineffective to reduce these inequities; and

**WHEREAS**, the unique land status of Tribes does not meet tax incentive criteria for renewable energy installation creating financing challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the eleven Tribal Governments sharing geography with Minnesota have identified a critical need to be energy independent, provide alternative options for tribal members, reduce the energy burden of tribal members, create a clean and energy efficient future for the generations to come, and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota statute 216C.381 COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAM describes the creation of Community Energy Councils inclusive of Tribal Government officials as a member not acknowledging the sovereign rights of Tribal Governments to establish an energy council that is reflective of the unique status of tribal nations, made up of tribally appointed representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, a Tribal Energy Council would be afforded the same council powers and duties provided in Minnesota Statute 216C.381 Subd.3 inclusive of tribal ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, a Tribal Energy Council would be afforded the department assistance provided in Minnesota Statute 216C.381 Subd.4; and

**WHEREAS**, a Tribal Energy Council implements improved energy practices including conservation, greater efficiency in energy use, the use of alternative resources, networking; and

**WHEREAS**, a Tribal Energy Council is a consultative body that makes policy recommendations to Minnesota Cabinet agencies, Commerce, MPCA, PUC, Subcabinets or others in regard to energy related matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council reminds the State Agencies of the Governor's Executive Order regarding Government-to-Government relationships with Tribal Nations, which requires consultation, coordination, and cooperation prior to any legislative or policy changes being implemented;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that Minnesota Indian Affairs Council acknowledges Minnesota Department of Commerce Tribal Liaison will actively support a Tribal Energy Council, Commerce technical staff and experts will be available; and

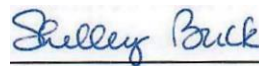
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Minnesota Indian Affairs Council recognizes Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner may provide professional and financial assistance to Tribal Governments to establish a Tribal Energy Council, within available resources; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council supports a Tribal Energy Council, with representation appointed by each of the eleven Tribal Governments, to be developed and led by tribally appointed representatives

**CERTIFICATION:** We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on November 10, 2020 at Grand Portage, MN.



Robert. L Larsen, Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



Shelley Buck, Vice Chairwoman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council