



# Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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March 15, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

***Subject: Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Support of the State of Minnesota's  
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Single Entity Proposal for Climate-Smart Food  
Systems (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)***

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I am writing to indicate the support of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) for the application submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other MN state agencies for EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We support your efforts to implement the suite of climate-smart food systems programs in your agency's single entity CPRG implementation grant proposal.

We all have a role to play in addressing the impacts of climate change in Minnesota, and this includes investing in climate-smart approaches to our food system. SMSC supports the partnerships in this climate-smart food systems work because it aligns with our values in the protection of the environment for future generations. An important part of these values is to improve local food systems in ways that support traditional foods and medicines, and to build thriving tribal food sovereignty programs.

We support the inclusion of \$15 million directed to Tribes for noncompetitive food systems grants and \$4 million for restoration of drained peatlands to improve resiliency and carbon sequestration.

Our governments supporting one-another on climate initiatives allows us to take a holistic, multi-system approach and capture multiple benefits while achieving significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestration across all aspects of our food system.

We are enthusiastic about supporting and working with the MPCA to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ambitious and vital CPRGof program. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or our Tribal Administrator at [bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org](mailto:bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org).

Sincerely,

Cole Miller  
Chairman