

RED LAKE BAND
of CHIPPEWA INDIANS
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March 11, 2024

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

RE: Support for the State 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 on behalf of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians to let you know that the Red Lake Nation is in support of the grant application being submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other state agencies with respect to EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. We support MPCA and the other state agencies involved in the proposal to implement the suite of climate-smart food systems programs in your agency's single entity CPRG implementation grant proposal.

We support this proposal because we all have a role to play in addressing the impacts of climate change in Minnesota, this includes investing in climate-smart approaches to our food system. The Red Lake Nation 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, restore landscapes to support traditional foods and medicines, and to support and build thriving food sovereignty programs. Tribal nations bring unique skills and perspectives to these efforts.

The Red Lake Nation supports 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. When our governments support each other on climate initiatives we can 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 systems.

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 CPRG program. You may reach me at DSeki@redlakenation.org, or (218) 679-1400.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Seki, Sr.
Tribal Chairman