



## LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

### DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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March 14th

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

Subject: The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Division of Resource Management's Support of 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,

We at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Division of Resource Management (DRM) are reaching out in support of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other state agencies grant application for 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 Leech Lake Band's DRM 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 skills and perspectives to these efforts that can no longer be ignored if we are to avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis.

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 CPRG program.

Finally, the DRM is designating Eugene Strowbridge, our Sustainability Coordinator, as the point of contact for this proposal. His contact information is as follows:

Eugene.Strowbridge@llojibwe.net

218-308-1693

Sincerely,

  
Brandy Toft (Mar 14, 2024 22:00 CDT)

Brandy Toft

Interim Division of Resource Management Co-Director

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Brandy.Toft@llojibwe.net

218-335-7417






# LoC - MPCA Foods

Final Audit Report

2024-03-15

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