



Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

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Cansayapi Otunwe

03/14/2024

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

Subject: Lower Sioux Indian Community'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,

The Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC) in the State of Minnesota 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.

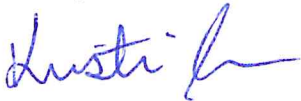
We support this proposal because we all have a role to play in addressing the impacts of climate change in Minnesota, this includes investing in climate-smart approaches to our food system. The LSIC supports the partnerships in this climate-smart food systems work because it aligns with our values in 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 vital efforts.

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.

Sincerely,



Kristi Schoen
Lower Sioux Council Treasurer