

Testimony of Alysia LaCounte

General Counsel for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

HB 1126

January 18, 2021

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. I provide this testimony in support of HB1126. In my work for the Tribe, I coordinate and negotiate agreements with State and County agencies. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa has in the works two mutual aid agreements one with Rolette County and another with North Dakota State Highway Patrol. These mutual aid agreements are to provide direct services to the people. In order, that Tribal Law Enforcement commissioned by the Tribe and serving under BIA Office of Justice Services, are appropriately indemnified by BIA, this legislation is necessary.

Presently, Tribal Law Enforcement can only assist on the reservation. When the County has an event, like a high-speed chase, Tribal Law Enforcement cannot assist in the pursuit or the attempts to contain the eluder on the reservation. This law will allow these highly trained officers to assist State and County officers in their work. As you know in law enforcement assistance and crisis can arise within seconds. This law provides peace of mind for the officers and the citizens in the area.