

February 3, 2021

Aaniin (Hello)

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Annette Mennem an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and live in Minot. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2316 relating to changing the date of First Nations Day to the Second Monday in October.

To pass this bill will work to strengthen the Native American/American Indian/First Nations/Indigenous communities by promoting understanding, recognition, and respect for cultures and to enrich the state as a whole and support empathy, integrity, humility, good stewardship of resources, fostering fellowship, and familial cohesion. Furthermore, it helps to close the equity gap, government entities, organizations, and other public institutions. It helps to better reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and uplift our state's Indigenous roots, history, and contribution, as well as truthfully acknowledge the history of actions taken that created the gap.

Thank you Chairman Vedaa, and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs committee, I urge a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2316.

Miigwech (Thank you)

Annette Mennem