



Tanner Veo

Student Government Secretary-Treasurer (2024-2025)

9299 Highway 24, Fort Yates, ND 58538

605-872-0639

03/26/2025

The committee on Tribal and State relations.

North Dakota Legislative Council

State Capitol

600 East Boulevard Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Members of the Tribal and State Committee,

My name is Tanner Veo, and I am the secretary-treasurer of the Student Government at Sitting Bull College, and former Student President of Student Government at United Tribes Technical College from 2022-2024. I am also a current graduate student in the North Dakota College system pursuing my master's degree in environmental science at Sitting Bull College, in Fort Yates, ND. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1535, which would establish a Feather Alert System to help locate missing Indigenous persons in our state.

The need for this bill is deeply personal for myself and Indian Country throughout our state and would serve the residents of North Dakota by increasing coordination and efforts in our state when addressing missing and murdered indigenous people (MMIP). My sister also went missing in Bismarck last year, for a period of 3 days. I spent many hours driving and asking others where she was to find and locate her to ensure she was in a good



place. I understand the stress and anxiety felt when loved ones go missing. Many in our community go missing with limited news coverage and delayed response times. A Feather alert system, like Silver or Amber alerts system, would ensure time-sensitive information is shared quickly and improve outcomes of North Dakota search and rescuers.

I commend the 11 sponsors of House Bill 1535 for taking action on this issue that has long impacted American Indian communities. Recently, Renzo Bullhead, an Indigenous North Dakotan, went missing. Renzo is 20 years old, was recently engaged, and a current student at United Tribes Technical College. I want to recognize and thank the searchers who are still passionately looking for Renzo and pray that he is found every morning. This compassion is trait that all North Dakotans share as we always help each other through the good times and bad times. As a North Dakotan, I am requesting to provide testimony at the Public Testimony for HB 1535 tomorrow, March 27th.

Thank you again for your consideration of this critical legislation. I am available through my phone number at 605-872-0639 or tannerveo@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Tanner Veo | Sitting Bull College Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanner Veo". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.