MANDAN, HIDATSA & ARIKARA NATION
Three Affiliated Tribes * Fort Berthold Indian Reservation
404 Frontage Road New Town, ND 58763
Tribal Business Council

Office of the Chairman
Mark N. Fox

HOUSE BILL 1397
SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MARK N. FOX, CHAIRMAN
MANDAN, HIDATSA AND ARIKARA NATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Cynthia Monteau, representing and on behalf of Chairman Mark Fox of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation). I come before you today as an Opponent of House Bill 1397, a bill that provides for the implementation of a legislative redistricting plan and exempts drafts of redistricting plans from open record requirements.

It is concerning that the bill does not provide for any consultation with the tribes in the State of North Dakota. The tribes need to be consulted on any bill that affects the fundamental right to vote because Tribes have been historically undercounted and underrepresented in the State of North Dakota.

The process of redistricting needs to be based on the principal of justice for all and a fair process that includes the native tribes in this state.

Mr. Chairman we urge a Do Not Pass, unless this bill contains amendments proposed by the North Dakota Native Vote. Thank you.