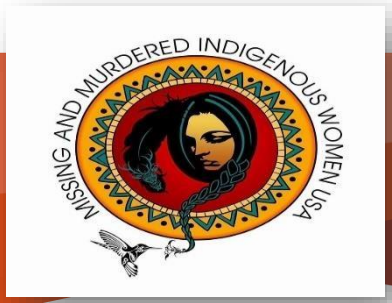

2.8.2023

MMIWUSA

Portland, OR

503-658-9024

To the North Dakota State Legislature,

In the last six, almost seven years of our operation, MMIWUSA has seen the prevalence of the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous people in the state of North Dakota. During this time, we have found that the missing and their families are continually failed, and continually lack access to resources that should be available to those families. If law enforcement was properly trained on how to handle missing persons cases, and the proper procedures were implemented along with strong resources for Search and Rescue efforts available uniformly across the state, many families could be served the way that they deserve.

We stand with Badlands SAR and the Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of North Dakota in support of SCR 4007. This resolution requests that the legislature conduct a study on Search and Rescue incidents in the State of North Dakota, and thus begin the process of assessing the needs in the state regarding missing persons and Search and Rescue. The hope would be to implement proper policies regarding Search and Rescue in the future.

We stand behind this because we know that having the proper resources made available for families of the missing in a

timely fashion is paramount to helping to bring missing loved ones home safely. Please consider our work, the work of Badlands SAR, and the families of the missing in your decision about this resolution.

Thank you,

Natalie Bullion

Executive Director

MMIWUSA