

Testimony of Representative Lisa Finley-DeVilIe

In support of House Bill 1563

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation committee, my name is Representative Lisa Finley- DeVilIe, representing District 4 A, which includes the MHA Nation. I testify in support of House Bill 1563, which will create a legislative management study related to tribal land taxation

The issue of tribal land taxation is both complex and vital for the future of our communities. For many tribes, creating a sustainable tax base is essential to funding crucial services like healthcare, education, infrastructure, and public safety on reservations. The issue of tribal land taxation has long been complex due to the intricate relationship between federal, state, and tribal sovereignty. Historically, taxation on reservations has been limited due to legal and jurisdictional challenges, including the recognition of tribal sovereignty and the federal government's unique relationship with Native American tribes. This study will help us understand the full scope of how federal law, state law, and tribal sovereignty interact, and how we can create systems that support our communities while respecting our rights. This effort is crucial for ensuring that Native American tribes can build economic self-sufficiency and thrive. I ask that the House Finance and Taxation committee give HS 1563 a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.