



North Dakota Native Vote
919 S 7th Street
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February 4, 2025

Testimony of Erika Red Tomahawk,
Tribal-State Policy Coordinator North Dakota Native Vote
In Support for HB 1455

Dear Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1455, a critical step toward ensuring Native American communities in North Dakota are seen, heard, and respected in the legislative process.

This requires the Indian Affairs Commission to review all bills introduced each session to assess whether they impact tribal communities. If they do, the Commission will consult directly with tribal leaders before any hearings. This is not just about compliance - it's about fostering genuine collaboration between the state and tribal nations, and giving tribal governments a seat at the table where decisions are made.

By mandating this proactive consultation, HB 1455 ensures that tribal sovereignty is respected and that Native voices are woven into the fabric of policy-making. The result? Better laws, stronger partnerships, and a more unified North Dakota where all communities have a stake in our shared future.

This bill is an important step forward in creating a more inclusive, transparent, and just process for all North Dakotans. I respectfully ask the committee to give a **“Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1455** and help make sure tribal voices are heard and valued within our state's legislative process. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Erika Red Tomahawk