

Testimony of Representative Lisa Finley-DeVilLe

In support of House Bill 1455

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions committee, my name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVilLe, representing District 4 A, which includes the MHA Nation. I'm testifying in support of House Bill 1455, which establishes a process for reviewing legislative measures that impact North Dakota's tribal nations and ensures consultation with tribal leaders.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. As a co-sponsor of HB 1455, I believe it is vital that we ensure tribal voices are considered when decisions impacting our communities are made.

As someone who works closely with our communities, I know how often critical decisions can be made without proper consultation or input to our State's five tribes. HB 1455 requires that the Indian Affairs Commission conduct a review of proposed legislation and determine if there may be any implications that would invoke steps for consultation with tribal leaders prior to committee hearings.

This bill is about respect and partnership. It's about acknowledging that tribal nations are sovereign governments and ensuring they have a seat at the table in shaping policy that impacts the lives of their constituents. When we communicate and collaborate, we make better decisions—not just for tribal communities but for the entire state.

I'm proud to co-sponsor this bill because it reflects our shared commitment to do better. It's a step toward stronger relationships, better policies, and a future where all voices are part of the conversation. I respectfully ask for your support and a do pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time.