

February 27, 2023

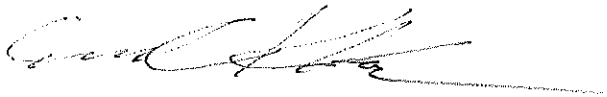
Dear Chairman Longmuir and Members of House Political Subdivision Committee:

I am writing to share my unreserved support for the nomination of Dr. Denise Lajimodiere to the position of the North Dakota Poet Laureate. I first met Dr. Lajimodiere through my association with Turtle Mountain Community College where I have been an English Faculty for the past eight years. During that time, I have collaborated with Dr. Lajimodiere on a number of initiatives including work with local high school students in a summer writing camp, attending writing retreats focused on developing writing within an indigenous framework, and collaborating with her in our Poetry course at our institution. Dr. Lajimodiere's breadth of work, community involvement, and exceptional artistic ability uniquely situate her to fulfill the role of Poet Laureate for the state of North Dakota.

While Dr. Lajimodiere's artistic and scholarly achievements span from her award-winning book on the Boarding School Era *Stringing Rosaries* to her successful children's book *Josie Dances* it is her poetry that best defines her voice in the North Dakota Landscape. Her poems are a glimpse into the realities that confront all North Dakotans and serve the purpose of all great literature by helping readers better understand the nature of their own existence. Dr. Lajimodiere is an excellent candidate for this recognition, and I have no doubts she will represent the state of North Dakota with grace and artistic vision in this role.

If there is anything else I can contribute in support of this nomination do not hesitate to reach me at 701-367-5628 or by email at erik.kornkven@gmail.com

Sincerely,



Erik Kornkven