



SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spirit Lake Tribe Provides Update on the Opposition of SB 2376: Emphasizes Need for Government-to-Government Consultation and Respectful Engagement Between Tribal Nations.

Fort Totten, ND – February 7, 2025 – The Spirit Lake Tribe expressed its concerns regarding Senate Bill 2376 on February 5, 2024, which seeks to authorize a new casino permit in Grand Forks County. While we deeply value our ongoing relationships with fellow tribal nations, particularly the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians—who have proposed this bill—we addressed the manner in which this initiative developed.

As we voice our concerns, we encourage our community members to remain calm and respectful toward one another and our neighbors, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. The Spirit Lake Tribe believes that open dialogue and understanding are key to resolving our differences and working towards mutual goals.

The Spirit Lake Tribe is committed to fostering respectful and cooperative relationships among tribal nations. However, we cannot support an initiative that has been crafted without our involvement in critical discussions at multiple levels of government. It is imperative that our state legislators and tribal governments understand that the absence of proper government-to-government consultation, specifically in the development of SB 2376, does not honor the rights and interests of the Spirit Lake tribe.

Establishing and maintaining a government-to-government relationship is essential for recognizing the sovereign status of our respective tribal nations. Such a relationship allows us to engage directly and on equal footing, facilitating collaboration on shared issues like resource management and economic development. It also ensures that we respect the unique laws and governance structures that each tribe upholds, ultimately promoting cooperation and understanding between our nations.

In closing, we urge all stakeholders involved to acknowledge the importance of inclusive discussions that honor the sovereignty and rights of all tribal nations. We remain hopeful that our commitment to collaboration and communication will pave the way for a more equitable and respectful future.

Lonna J. Street
Chairwoman— Spirit Lake Tribe

For further information or to schedule a conversation, please contact:

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