



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Leonard Alan Roy
DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. **DISTRICT II** Kathy Goodwin **DISTRICT III** Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

October 30, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tribal Members, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

FROM: Alan Roy, Secretary/Treasurer

SUBJECT: Advocating for what we believe

Last night, the Tribal Executive Committee chose not to allow the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Land Transfer to be placed on the agenda and be decided by Referendum. Over the course of several months myself and other White Earth Representatives attempted to move this issue to a Referendum vote. While the referendum request was not fully accomplished, the Tribal Executive Committee cooperated with White Earth Representatives to allow for each Band to individually ratify associated legislation—for Bands this may mean we could choose to participate in the land transfer or not participate in the land transfer. And as a matter of clarification, we advocated for a Referendum as we believed that it's what's best for all 40,000 Tribal members and not just our individual Band. The same could be said for the Resolution.

The associated legislation with the Land Transfer Resolution moving through Congress has yet to be submitted and approved. Should Tribal members continue their disagreement or support for the issue, they may contact their Representative and/or Senator to express their individual position on the issue. For the White Earth RBC, we will discuss the effects—pros and cons—of this Resolution and legislation with Band members. The MCT Land Transfer shall remain a priority for White Earth and we will explore every option available.

On another note, I want to thank the other TEC officials for listening to our shared concerns over the past few months. Too often our differences are magnified, but I'd like to think that on this issue we worked productively towards reasonable solutions for all Tribal members. Our advocacy on the Land Transfer was productive and that goes for those for it and for those against it. Always remember, we do this work for the People. I also thank Tribal members for sharing our vision and beliefs: giving the People a voice in their government; protecting our heritage and advocating for environmental justice; standing for the People; always advocating for what we believe. This is spiritual, traditional, and very much practical. Because at the end of the day, I know that we will rise to the next challenge. Eyes forward, always looking ahead.

For the White Earth Band members able to attend on short notice, I am extremely thankful for your participation. We will do our best to provide our members the opportunity to attend these meetings in the future because it's very important. This is why I authorized a budget (rooms, meals, transportation) to directly support our members to attend this meeting as the location was changed. In the future, we will broadcast these opportunities with more time for members to make travel arrangements.

Let's stay focused and move forward. As a People, we have many unique opportunities to address. I believe that we are stronger together. With your continued support, our future looks promising.

Ever grateful.

Alan