



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Arthur "Archie" LaRose, Chairman
Michael J. Bongo, Secretary/Treasurer

District I Representative District II Representative District III Representative
Robbie M. Howe *Lyman "Dede" Losh* *Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird*

April 26, 2010

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL, E-MAIL
AND FACSIMILE: 651-296-4799

Mark Holsten, Commissioner
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4040

Re: State Recognition of 1855
 Anishinabe Ceded Territory Rights
 to Hunt, Fish and Gather

Dear Commissioner Holsten:

As Chairman of the Leech Lake Reservation I am writing to formally present you with a copy of the *Anishinabe* Nation's "Right to a Modest Living" From the Exercise of *Off-Reservation Usufructuary* Treaty Rights.... in *All of Northern Minnesota* by Peter Erlinder. I believe this paper accurately reflects the correct legal analysis supporting off-reservation rights to hunt, fish and gather for tribal members in the 1855 Ceded Territory. I do hope we can work together for a diplomatic solution for Minnesota's recognition of our rights.

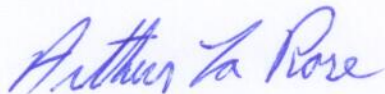
I regret that a tribal member attending our on-going 1855 meetings went to the press before you or Governor Pawlenty were provided this notice. Our Legal Director attempted to get in front of the story but could only clarify potential objectives and outcomes of the 1855 meetings that had not yet been presented to the Leech Lake RBC for consideration or adoption. I myself have previously attended 1855 meetings and support the on-going 1855 meetings with White Earth Reservation and other tribes and members.

I know that tribal members are very interested in co-management of ceded territory resources and that an 1855 off-reservation fishing code has been drafted and nearly ready for presentation to Leech Lake and White Earth Reservations to consider adopting. Unfortunately the statements attributed to me in the April 22, 2010 press release do not completely and accurately reflect my position. I had requested final review of the press release before it was issued but that was not honored. Now we have a rushed meeting scheduled.

This week all 6 Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will be holding our quarterly meeting. I would like to hear from other MCT leaders on this important matter. My plan is to continue working jointly with the White Earth RBC because our tribal members' share common rights to hunt, fish and gather in the 1855, just like the Bands of Tri-Band agreement for the 1854. My plan is to meet face-to-face with White Earth elected leaders to develop our joint approach for our meeting with you. Therefore, it is premature to meet with you tomorrow, Tuesday, April 27th at 10:00 a.m. as I think all I would be doing is traveling 8 hours, round trip, for a photo opportunity, when we both can make better use of our time right now with such short notice.

I am aware of Governor Pawlenty's position for this matter as stated in the news. As Tribal Chairman, we want to be a good neighbor and continue to build on the positive relationships we already have with local governments; tribal, county and state. Please have your legal staff review Peter Erlinder's legal analysis and provide a written response to my office so that I may share it with the other RBC members and our legal staff. I also request that a copy of that response be sent to the White Earth Reservation Chairwoman Erma Vizenor so we can all better understand the issues and concerns to prepare for a more meaningful and productive meeting in the near future with you and White Earth. Thank you for your prompt attention in scheduling your time for this important matter. I look forward to our next meeting after this week's meetings with Tribal leaders.

Best regards,



Arthur "Archie" LaRose
CHAIRMAN

cc: Erma Vizenor, White Earth Chairwoman
Floyd Jourdain, Red Lake Tribal Chairman
Leech Lake RBC
Bruce Johnson, Director LL Resource Mgmt
Rob Aitken, LL Executive Director
Randy Finn, LL Deputy Director
Frank Bibeau, LL Legal Director