



MINNESOTA INDIAN
GAMING ASSOCIATION

March 1, 2020

Madam Chair Kiffmeyer,
Senator Chamberlain,
Members of the Senate State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee,

The Minnesota Indian Gaming Association (MIGA) represents all eleven of the federally recognized Native American tribes across the state. On behalf of our elected tribal leaders, the association appreciates the ability to provide comments regarding SF1894, a bill that would legalize sports betting in Minnesota.

MIGA would first like to extend our appreciation to Sen. Chamberlain and the bill's co-authors for respectfully engaging tribes on the topic of sports betting. However, Minnesota tribes remain concerned that a legal sports betting market could have negative consequences to the state's delicate gaming industry. Minnesota's current gaming landscape is well balanced with a rightful place for the charitable gaming, horse racing, lottery, and tribal operations.

Regulated sports betting markets are new to 16 states and vary widely. Before pursuing any new types of gaming in Minnesota, MIGA urges a better understanding of the impacts from recently enacted sports betting laws, particularly in states with a significant tribal gaming presence.

For over 25 years, MIGA has opposed the expansion of state gambling to ensure the continued success of Indian gaming that remains critical to sovereign tribal governments ability to serve their communities. Our position is unchanged; *The Minnesota Indian Gaming Association continues to oppose the expansion of off-reservation gambling, including the legalization of sports betting* and, therefore, must respectfully oppose SF1894.

Minnesota tribes would like to thank Chair Kiffmeyer, Senator Chamberlain and coauthors, and the full Senate State Government Finance Committee for their attention to this matter and hope to continue a dialogue related to sports betting and to gaming in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

John McCarthy
Executive Director
Minnesota Indian Gaming Association

