

*Siouxland*  
**Chamber**  
of Commerce

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December 6, 2023

Victoria Kitcheyan  
Chair  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
1030 Buffalo Trail, Suite 110  
Winnebago, NE 68701

**Via e-mail**

Dear Chairwoman Kitcheyan:

Please add our voices, and that of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, to the rising chorus of so many others who are advocating for the passage of the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023.

Recognizing that this bill has been authored to effectuate the long-overdue transfer of administrative jurisdiction of riverfront lands along the Missouri River from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and subsequently returned to its rightful owners via trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, we are in strong support of this legislation.

As you actively pursue passage of H.R. 1240 and S3230, please be assured of our steadfast backing of this legislation. With Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa), Senator Deb Fischer (Nebraska), Senator Joni Ernst (Iowa), Senator Pete Ricketts (Nebraska) <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1647254>, and Congressman Randy Feenstra (Iowa-4) all sponsoring this legislation, it has become quite evident that the Winnebago Land Transfer Act enjoys the unambiguous support of our federal legislative leaders who are most directly aware of and geographically proximate to the approximately 1,600 acres in question.

As Congress begins to focus on this bill, the Siouxland community joins this effort focused on restoring this land which is rightfully owned by, and should be returned to, the Native American community and, more specifically, the people of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

As the leading business advocacy and economic development organization representing the tri-state area of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, we share the publicly expressed sentiments of our congressional leadership and share their interest in ensuring that this wrong is remedied and done so as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. McGowan  
President



Barbara M. Sloniker  
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Charles Grassley  
The Honorable Deb Fischer  
The Honorable Joni Ernst  
The Honorable Peter Ricketts  
The Honorable Randy Feenstra  
Lance Morgan, President & CEO, Ho-Chunk, Inc.  
Danelle Smith, Partner, Big Fire Law & Policy Group LLP  
Matt Eide, Tribal Consultant, Eide Walton, LLC