

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 7, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023 – Request for Legislative Hearing

Dear Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairman Murkowski:

Thank you for your leadership on tribal issues and commitment to ensure that the United States keeps its promises to Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and American Indians.

On November 6, 2023, we introduced the Senate version, S. 3230, of the bill H.R. 1240 – the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023. On this same day the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. This bill is intended to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and further take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. These lands originally belonged to the Tribe; however, they were wrongfully seized by the Army Corps of Engineers.

We consider the Winnebago Land Transfer Act a priority. The Tribe has fought vigorously over the years to obtain their land back, it is time that this historic injustice is set right. We request that the committee add this bill to the schedule for the next legislative hearing.

We look forward to working with you to restore the Winnebago lands. Thank you very much for your consideration on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer
United States Senator for Nebraska



Chuck Grassley
United States Senator for Iowa



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator for Iowa



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator for Nebraska