



Date: Winnebago Land Transfer Act Signed Into Law

For Immediate Release

Winnebago Tribe News Release

### President Biden Signed the Winnebago Land Transfer Act Into Law

WINNEBAGO, NE – President Biden signed the Winnebago Land Transfer Act into law today July 12, 2024, bringing a close to the Tribe’s 50-year effort to restore approximately 1,600 acres of land illegally taken by the federal government in the 1970s.

“On this historic day, I am thankful for our ancestors, including the late Louis LaRose, who fought tirelessly to secure and protect our homelands and taught us to how to be resilient and persistent,” said Winnebago Chairwoman Victoria Kitcheyan. It has been an honor to carry on their work and have the bill signed into law in their honor,” Chairwoman Kitcheyan continued.

The bill that President Biden signed into law, H.R. 1240, was introduced by Representative Randy Feenstra of Iowa and cosponsored by the entire Nebraska and Iowa Congressional Delegations as well as Representative Sharice Davids — a member of the Winnebago’s sister tribe, the Ho-Chunk Nation. The House of Representatives passed the bill by voice vote on February 5, 2024.

Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE), along with Senators Pete Ricketts (R-NE), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Joni Ernst (R-IA), introduced an identical bill and ushered the House bill through the Senate. On June 20, 2024, Senator Fischer requested unanimous consent that the Senate approve the Winnebago Land Transfer Act, which resulted in the bill being sent to the President. The bill was subsequently presented to President Biden who signed the bill into law earlier today.

The Tribe will be forever grateful to Representative Randy Feenstra, Senator Deb Fischer, Senator Chuck Grassley, Senator Pete Ricketts, Senator Joni Ernst, Representative Sharice Davids, Representative Mike Flood, Representative Zach Nunn, Representative Adrian Smith, Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Representative Don Bacon, Representative Ashley Hinson, the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Department of the Interior for *aikiruti*, “standing arm in arm,” with the Winnebago people through this momentous effort.

The enactment of the Winnebago Land Transfer Act is a testament to the Winnebago peoples’ persistence, determination, and commitment to being a good neighbor. “The Tribal Council would like to thank the Winnebago people for entrusting us to fight for this land that is forever ours,” said Chairwoman Kitcheyan.

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For more information on the Winnebago Tribe and the Winnebago Land Transfer Act

<https://winnebago-tribe.com/wtn-land-transfer-act/>

Contact:

Garan Coons

Winnebago Tribe Communications Officer

402-878-2272 ext. 4000

Email: [garan.coons@winnebago-tribe.com](mailto:garan.coons@winnebago-tribe.com)

DRAFT