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## **PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY**

**WHEREAS,** the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is a Federally Recognized Indian Government, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. 461, *et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Governing Board serves as the governing body of the Tribe pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Governing Board passed Tribal Governing Board Resolution No. 2024-22 on February 12, 2024, repealing Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Code of Law GNC.4.4.060 its entirety as it relates to the civil penalties for possession and use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia; and

**WHEREAS,** as of November 2023 there are 38 states plus Washington DC and four territories with marijuana legalization—including 24 states plus Washington DC, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands that have legalized adult-use marijuana—serving at least four million medical patients; and

**WHEREAS,** tribally-owned marijuana retail operations have increased by nearly 25% since 2023 and there are over 50 Tribes that own and/or operate marijuana operations across the United States, several of which are in our neighboring state of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribal Governing Board acknowledges the Prairie Island Indian Community Council (“Tribal Council”) as the duly elected governing body of the Prairie Island Indian Community, a federally recognized Indian Tribe with inherent sovereign authority to make its own laws to govern activities on Tribal lands pursuant to Prairie Island Indian Community’s Constitution and by-laws adopted by tribal members on May 23, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on June 20, 1936; and

**WHEREAS,** Tribal Council adopted a cannabis regulatory ordinance on February 22, 2024, by Res. No. 24-2-22-31, which regulates matters relating to commercial cannabis including, but not limited to, the use, possession, cultivation, production, sale, and transport of cannabis products within the Community’s Indian Country. This

ordinance also established the Cannabis Regulatory Commission as a civil regulatory agency for oversight of all commercial cannabis-related matters within the Community’s jurisdiction, through compact, ordinance, Community Council resolution, or otherwise; and

**WHEREAS,** Tribal Council adopted a cannabis regulatory ordinance on May 15, 2024, by Res. No. 2405-15-129 regarding personal cannabis use, cultivation, and possession; and

**WHEREAS,** Island Peži, a cannabis retail facility owned by the Prairie Island Indian Community, opened on June 29, 2024 as the fourth adult-use cannabis facility in the state and served nearly 600 customers.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that the Tribal Governing Board wholly supports the Prairie Island Indian Community in their comprehensive and progressive cannabis regulatory program as it prioritizes high quality facility, operational, and product standards that elevate customer experience and strengthen the integrity of the regulated cannabis industry.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED,** that the Tribal Governing Board commends the Prairie Island Indian Community’s initiative to support and protect their members’ rights to accessible and dignified personal cannabis use, cultivation, and possession.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED,** that the Tribal Governing Board applauds the Prairie Island Indian Community’s commitment to advance the cannabis industry through native-owned operations, demonstrating the power of tribal sovereignty as a driving force in healthcare improvement, economic expansion, workforce development, and exemplary regulation.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024.**

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Louis Taylor, Chairman

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Tweed Shuman, Vice-Chairperson

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William Trepanier, Secretary/Treasurer

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Michelle Beaudin, Council Member

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David Bisonette, Council Member

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Don Carley, Council Member

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Gary Clause, Council Member