



Pride of the Ojibwe

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PROCLAMATION HONORING THE WHITE EARTH NATION'S PROGRESSIVE ADVANCEMENTS 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 White Earth Reservation Business Committee as the duly elected governing body of the White Earth Nation, a federally recognized Indian Tribe with inherent sovereign authority to make its own laws, and to govern activities on Tribal lands through which they enacted a medical cannabis code in 2021 followed by an adult-use cannabis code in 2023, authorizing the use, possession, cultivation, processing, and dispensing of cannabis. These codes also established the Medicinal Cannabis Control Commission as an independent body to oversee compliance in accordance with the cannabis codes; and

WHEREAS, Waabigwan Mashkiki, a cannabis retail facility owned by the White Earth Nation, opened for medical sales on July 31, 2023 and adult-use sales on August 3, 2023 directly following the effective date of adult-use legalization in the state; and

WHEREAS, Waabigwan Mashkiki continues to advance tribal cannabis and recently engaged in the largest inter-Tribal exchange as a marijuana flower supplier for newly opened dispensaries in Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Prairie Island Indian Community; and

WHEREAS, leaders and members within White Earth Nation’s cannabis operations have featured in dozens of industry conferences and expositions, including those specifically for Tribes and Indigenous communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Tribal Governing Board honors the White Earth Nation for their unwavering dedication to enhance the cannabis industry through data-informed operational protocols, harm reduction resources, person-centered product curation, and conscientious business development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Tribal Governing Board congratulates the White Earth Nation on their continued success in cannabis regulation, industry development, and business strategy execution despite the delayed implementation of a state framework for adult-use cannabis, showcasing the progressive impact and importance of tribal leadership and sovereignty.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, that the Tribal Governing Board commends White Earth Nation on their commitment to support other Tribes by sharing their experiences through panel discussions, presentations, tours, and consultations, which foster greater advancements for all tribal cannabis and inter-Tribal coordination.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024.

Louis Taylor, Chairman

Tweed Shuman, Vice-Chairperson

William Trepanier, Secretary/Treasurer

Michelle Beaudin, Council Member

David Bisonette, Council Member

Don Carley, Council Member

Gary Clause, Council Member