

Rep. Considine: Statement on 2023 State of the Tribes address

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Madison - Today, Chairman Robert Van Zile delivered the 2023 State of the Tribes address in the Assembly Chambers. Chairmain Van Zile is part of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued the following statement on the State of the Tribes address:

“I appreciated hearing from Chairman Van Zile today. It is important that we as a legislature hear from tribal leaders and are aware of the issues tribal communities face and the priorities they have. Chairman Van Zile discussed the need for environmental protections, such as PFAS removal and other clean water initiatives. He also highlighted the importance of increasing access to mental health, healthcare, and substance abuse prevention. These are issues that disproportionately affect tribal communities. These are also issues that are important to the health of our state. We must work together with tribal leaders to ensure all Wisconsinites have access to quality healthcare and environmental resources. I applaud Governor Evers’ investments in all of these areas in his proposed budget. It is my hope that the budget that becomes law includes these investments.

“Today is a day to celebrate the relationships we have with tribal communities in Wisconsin and also celebrate their cultures. Throughout the history of our state, tribal voices have too often gone unheard. I am encouraged to see the tradition of the States of the Tribes continue for the 19th consecutive year. It is my hope that we can continue to strengthen our relationships and learn from one another.”