

Rep. Stubbs: Applauds State of the Tribes address

Posted on Tuesday, Mar 14, 2023

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MADISON, WI – Today Robert Van Zile, chair of Sokaogan Chippewa Community in Forest

County, delivered the annual State of the Tribes Address. Representative Shelia Stubbs (D- Madison) released the following statement:

“Chairman Van Zile spoke about the need for continued and improved state-tribal partnerships in improving health care, economic diversity, and educational opportunities.”

“Once again I’m inspired by the words of a respected tribal leader who is advising the Legislature on ways to improve the lives of people across the state, both tribal members and non-tribal. The State of the Tribes address plays an intrigal part in bridging the gap between legislators and members of Wisconsin’s 11 Native American communités, to remind us of the ongoing contributions Native Americans make to our state. We must make sure everyone has adequate health care, both physical and mental. We must ensure that our air, waters and land are clean. We must prioritize a quality education for every child.”

“Mr. Van Zile specifically mentioned allowing advanced practice nurse practitioners to serve patients without having to practice under a physican. A change in the law will open doors to allow people without easy access to medical care to have more options.”

“He thanked Gov. Evers for the initiative in his state budget proposal that would create an Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women within the Department of Justice.”

“Mr. Van Zile commended the work of the Legislature’s Special Committee on State and Tribal Relations, which made seven recommendations for the 2023-2024 session. Among the committee’s recommendations are requiring the state schools superintendent to incorporate American Indian studies into the state’s model academic standards.”

“Chairman Van Zile asked the Legislature to allow tribal law enforcement officers to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System, which would make those jobs more attractive to officers and increase public safety.”

“As Chairman Van Zile said, we all benefit from greater collaboration on matters of mutual concern, This is true for all who call Wisconsin home.”