



January 10, 2018

Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4040

Dear Commissioner Landwehr:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate support for the changing of the name of Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska by the undersigned elected Representatives and Senators serving the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County at the State Capitol.

After many months of community discussion and debate, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to change the name of Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska on November 28, 2017. As it is your duty to work with county boards to approve name changes to lakes, streams and other geographic features (See Minn. Stat. 83A.02, Subd. 3), we are writing to notify you of our full support of the county board's action to change the name to Bde Maka Ska.


We encourage you and the Department of Natural Resources to take all necessary official action to change the name for several reasons. The name change represents a significant acknowledgement of our history as a city, county, and state. Restoring the name Bde Maka Ska will start conversations and educational experiences about our history and the first Indigenous people of Minnesota. This action will grow a deeper appreciation for the vibrant Native American Indian communities that still exist in Minneapolis and throughout the state.

The name change is further justified by the fact that the current name, Lake Calhoun, was chosen to dignify a man that represents a very undignified part of our American experience. John C. Calhoun was an advocate for slavery, white supremacy, and the extermination of Indigenous Americans. The history of Calhoun as a political or historical figure is not honored or dignified by Minnesotans now, nor should it ever have been.

Through the changing of the name, the Hennepin County Board and Hennepin County residents desire to make Bde Maka Ska a more welcoming place to all, by elevating the rich history of our community and the vibrant culture and language of Indigenous Minnesotans. Just as it has been for generations, Bde Maka Ska will continue to be a treasure shared by all Minnesotans, and now will offer a deeper appreciation for our shared history.

Sincerely,





Rep. Jim Davnie  
District 63A – Minneapolis



Rep. Fue Lee  
District 59A – Minneapolis



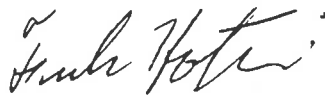
Rep. Ray Dehn  
District 59B – Minneapolis



Rep. Diane Loeffler  
District 60A – Minneapolis



Rep. Ilhan Omar  
District 60B – Minneapolis



Rep. Frank Hornstein  
District 61A – Minneapolis



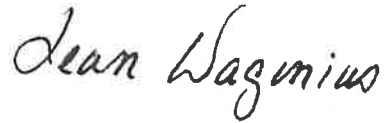
Rep. Paul Thissen  
District 61B – Minneapolis



Rep. Karen Clark  
District 62A – Minneapolis



Rep. Susan Allen  
District 62B – Minneapolis



Rep. Jean Wagenius  
District 63B – Minneapolis



Sen. Bobby Joe Champion  
District 59 – Minneapolis



Sen. Kari Dziedzic  
District 60 – Minneapolis



Sen. Scott Dibble  
District 61 – Minneapolis



Sen. Jeff Hayden  
District 62 – Minneapolis



Sen. Patricia Torres Ray  
District 63 – Minneapolis