



# Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

## Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

July 30, 2020

To Mille Lacs Band Members:

Please accept this letter as notice that the Band Assembly is currently reviewing proposed legislation to create a Leasing of Trust Lands Code, that will implement the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (“HEARTH”) Act, Pub. L. 112–151. An entire draft of the proposed changes can be found on the Mille Lacs Band website at <https://millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch>.


A summary of the most significant proposed changes and issues to be addressed are as follows:

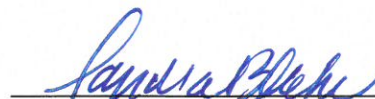
- **Currently, leases of Mille Lacs Band trust lands require approval by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs).** These regulations, if enacted and approved by the Secretary, will authorize the Mille Lacs Band to negotiate and enter into leases without further approvals by the Secretary (Bureau of Indian Affairs).
- **Currently, leases of Mille Lacs Band trust lands for business, residential, recreational, religious or educational purposes, except the lease between the Mille Lacs Band and the Minnesota Historical Society, may only have a primary term of 25 years with one renewal term of 25 years and leases for agricultural purposes may only have a term of 10 years.** These regulations will authorize the Band to execute agricultural and business leases of trust lands for a primary term of 25 years and up to two renewal terms of 25 years each. Leases of trust lands for residential, recreational, religious or educational purposes may be executed for a primary term of up to 75 years.

Please take note that these are not the only proposed provisions governing the leasing of Mille Lacs Band trust lands under review by the Band Assembly. All Band members and employees are encouraged to review the entire draft.

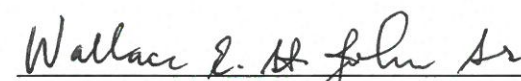
The public comment period for these proposed changes has been set at 15 business days. **Therefore, please submit any written comments to [legislation@millelacsband.com](mailto:legislation@millelacsband.com) no later than 5:00 PM on August 21, 2020. Please use “HEARTH” as the subject title.** You may also submit written comments in person to the Legislative Branch at the Government Center. Hard copies of the draft legislation are available upon request. *Miigwech.*

Sincerely,

  
Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

  
Sandra Blake, District 1 Representative

  
Marvin Bruneau, District 2 Representative

  
Wallace St. John Sr., District 3 Representative