



# *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government  
Office of the Chief Executive*

August 1, 2024

*Hand-Delivered*

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly  
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative  
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative  
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Veto of Band Assembly Act 38-24

Dear Honorable Members of the Band Assembly:

I am in receipt of Band Assembly Act 38-24, An Act of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services for the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025. After careful consideration, I have decided to apply my veto in accordance with 3 MLBS § 17(c).

The purpose for my veto is narrow. Namely, the biennium budget is based on estimated casino distributions of \$36,842,782 for FY 2024 and \$37,753,605 for FY 2025. My understanding is that Grand Casinos Mille Lacs and Hinckley are estimated to produce approximately \$117 million in distribution for FY 2024 and \$123.8 million for FY 2025. This means that, after applying the Revenue Allocation Plan's 25 percent allocation for base government spending, tribal government can count on approximately \$29,250,000 in casino distributions per year. I am concerned that, if I sign this budget as presented, it will create a shortfall of more than \$7 million for FY 2024 and more than \$6 million for FY 2025. I propose that we address this potential problem now rather than later.

I would also like to see that the budget, as summarized in Exhibit A, reflect how each funding source is being used. These funding sources include Economic Development, Housing Initiative, Investment Income, Permanent Initiative, etc.

Thank you for hearing my concerns, and I look forward to resolving this matter at our compromise hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Virgil Wind", is written over a horizontal line.

Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive