



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

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

Via E-mail

January 30, 2025

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

Re: Proposed Restructure of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Dear Band Assembly:

Shortly after taking office, I sent you a letter detailing my legislative priorities. In the letter, I thanked you for all the work you do and stated that I “look forward to starting a new chapter in which the Executive and Legislative Branches work together to enact important legislation for the good of the Band.” I stand by that statement and am grateful for your efforts over the past six months to legislate real change within the Band.

To that end, I have directed my staff to prepare a bill that would amend Title 16 (Corporations). Specifically, the bill would divide the existing Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures into the Corporate Commission—which would perform government ministerial duties, oversee the Band’s gaming enterprises, and oversee Makwa Global, LLC—and a new Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, which would oversee the Band’s remaining non-gaming enterprises. In addition to providing increased transparency of the performance of our gaming businesses, I also find it important to separate our federally regulated businesses from our emerging cannabis business, which could prove problematic under federal law.

I would also like to see the development of both a budget approval process and mechanism whereby all of the Band’s business enterprises are held accountable to annual performance goals. Although I have not included any such proposed revisions within the draft bill, I would like to have these guardrails in place to ensure that our businesses are always pursuing excellence and increased profits to the Band. This is crucial to maintaining the funding of our governmental programs and services for many years into the future.

In addition to the proposed bill amending Title 16, I have also enclosed the CORPORATE CHARTER & BYLAWS from 1991 and the AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES from 2021. Although the Band Assembly ratified the 1991 Charter and Bylaws via Resolution 04-03-54-91, there doesn’t appear to be a corresponding resolution for the 2021 Bylaws. Therefore, if the Band Assembly should elect to consider my proposed revisions to Title 16, I recommend that it also conduct a thorough review of all historical charters and bylaws. This

Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to Band Assembly
Re: Proposed Restructure of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
January 30, 2025
Page 2 of 2

will ensure that any organizational redesign is accomplished in the most thoughtful manner possible.

Miigwech for considering my proposals, and I welcome any future conversations you may wish to have on this matter. I understand that this initial draft is not perfect, but I look forward to attending any future workshops you may schedule to pursue shared policy goals.

Sincerely,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Darcie Big Bear, Commissioner of Administration/Interim Commissioner of Corporate Affairs
Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Reen Reinhardt, Revisor of Statutes
Mel Towle, Commissioner of Finance

Enclosures:

1. Proposed Bill Amending Title 16 (Corporations)
2. Corporate Charter & Bylaws (1991)
3. MLCV Amended and Restated Bylaws (2021)
4. Resolution 04-03-54-91