



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

October 31, 2025

To: Minnesota Department of Corrections Supervised Release Board

Re: Letter of Support for Brian Pippitt

Greetings,

I write with respect to Brian Pippitt, who is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. It is my understanding that Mr. Pippitt is scheduled to appear before you on December 9, 2025, to determine whether he will be released from prison and placed on supervised release to complete the duration of his sentence. Although I do not know Mr. Pippitt personally, it is my ardent belief that he can live out the remainder of his days as a welcomed citizen of our tribe. Therefore, please accept this letter as one of support for Mr. Pippitt's release.

In addition to being an enrolled Band member, Mr. Pippitt—having surpassed the age of 55—is also considered a Band Elder. In Ojibwe culture, Elders are revered for their wisdom and experience. Our traditional mindset is to do whatever we can to meet the needs of Elders and to learn from them. We try to adhere to this standard even when the Elder has made grave mistakes during the course of his or her lifetime. I fully acknowledge Mr. Pippitt's conviction, the length of time he has served in prison, and the underlying events that led to Mr. Pippitt's conviction. But upon his release, Mr. Pippitt would enter our community as an Elder—and he would be received accordingly.

Beyond the respect showed to our Elders, our tribal government also has various programs designed for their benefit. These programs include Elder Energy, Elder Supplemental Income, Senior Living, and a secondary health insurance program called Circle of Health. Upon his release, Mr. Pippitt would have access to these programs, among others specific to his individual needs (including reentry case management services). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at virgil.wind@millelacsband.com.

Miigwech,

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

Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe