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February 4, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Matt.Massman@state.mn.us

MN Dept. of Administration
Mr. Matt Massman, Commissioner
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Capitol Artwork

Dear Mr. Massman and the Tri-Chairs of the Art Subcommittee (Representative Diane Loeffler, Senator David Senjem, and Honorable Paul Anderson):

Thank you for meeting with me on January 22, 2016 to discuss the views of the Upper Sioux Community with regard to the Capitol artwork allegedly depicting historical events involving the Dakota people. It is not the intent of this letter to repeat the discussions and historical viewpoint of the Upper Sioux Community with regard to the subject artwork, but rather to summarize the position of the Upper Sioux Community with regard to the display of such artwork.

As stated at the meeting, the position of the Upper Sioux Community is to seek the removal of all the subject artwork as an inaccurate portrayal of the history of the Dakota people in the State of Minnesota. However, given the apparent unwillingness of the Capitol Preservation Commission to simply remove/retire the subject artwork, the Upper Sioux Community makes the following additional comments.

With regard to the following artwork: (a) "Eighth Minnesota at the Battle of Ta-Ha-Kouty"; (b) "Attack on New Ulm"; and (c) "The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux"; the Upper Sioux Community requests that such artwork be removed from its present location and moved to an area wherein the Dakota perspective of the events allegedly depicted in the artwork is given prominent and equal display. As discussed in depth during our meeting, the Dakota perspective and the Dakota experience is not at all accurately depicted in the referenced artwork and a full telling of Minnesota history

requires that the Dakota viewpoint be told. The Upper Sioux Community, along with the other Dakota communities in this state, is willing to provide input on the narrative and factual context of the events depicted in the subject artwork.

With regard to the artwork known as "Father Hennepin Discovering the Falls of St. Anthony", it is unclear to the Upper Sioux Community if the Native Americans depicted in the artwork are Dakota people. Nevertheless, the depiction of Father Hennepin interacting with a bare chested Native American woman is not an accurate portrayal of the Dakota people and given the lack of any historical context such artwork should be removed.

Should you wish to discuss this matter in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin J. Jenvold".

Kevin Jenvold, Chairman
Board of Trustees
Upper Sioux Community