



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on the 19th Annual State of the Tribes

MADISON, Wis. — Following the conclusion of the 19th annual State of the Tribes Address, delivered by Sokaogon Chippewa Community Chairman Robert Van Zile, Assembly Democratic Leader Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) released the following statement:

“I am honored to have attended the 19th annual State of the Tribes Address and to have had the opportunity to hear directly from Chair Robert Van Zile and Wisconsin’s sovereign tribal nations about our shared values and commitment to our state.

“I agree with Chair Robert Van Zile that we have a shared responsibility to protect our natural resources, to make sure future generations have the opportunity to thrive, and to ensure that the true nature of our shared history is taught and understood.

“Chair Van Zile stressed the importance of ensuring we make critical investments in our communities by making sure they have the resources they need. From infrastructure, to rural emergency services, to mental health resources, to conservation of our public lands and water, it is up to all of us to make sure every Wisconsinite can thrive.

“As we recognize the traditions and impacts of Wisconsin’s tribal nations, we must also highlight the fact that their voices have gone unheard for far too long. There is still much work to be done to address long-standing inequities, respect the legacies of Wisconsin’s first inhabitants, and to honor the occupied land we all live on.

“The State of the Tribes is an annual reminder that our governments have a history we must acknowledge and a shared future full of opportunity. I look forward to building that future together.”

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