



MELISSA AGARD  
STATE SENATOR

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**Sen Agard: State of the Tribes Address Affirms the Need to Work Together**

MADISON – Today, Forest County Potawatomi Community Chairman James Crawford delivered the 20th annual State of the Tribes Address at the Wisconsin State Capitol. Chairman James Crawford confirmed the importance of the shared relationship between the state and the 11 federally recognized tribal nations. Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) expressed her honor in attending and released the following statement:

“I was grateful to be in attendance for this year’s State of the Tribes Address where Chairman James Crawford emphasized coming together for the greater good, bringing different perspectives to the table, and collaborating together in a way that supports each tribal nation and the greater community.

“Chairman Crawford pointed out the continued struggles that tribal nations across Wisconsin are facing - health care access, the ability to source nutritious indigenous foods, the necessity for hiring skilled labor, and the lack of affordable housing. These are issues that the state and tribal nations are working together on to find solutions.

“The Forest County Potawatomi Community Chairman also highlighted the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. More must be done to address the horrific trafficking and violence that too many face.

“We all share more in common than we think. It is our commonalities that will lead to change and positive impact for tribal nations in Wisconsin. While every tribal nation is unique in their own ways, they still work together and spend time with one another. I look forward to the continued relationship between the 11 federally recognized tribal nations and our great state to make sure that our differences are set aside for a better understanding of each other in our communities.”

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