



LEWISTON OFFICE
180 East Main St, Box 130
Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-3366

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
821 East 35th St, #200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-722-6377

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE
117 South 1st St
Montevideo, MN 56265
320-269-2105

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 26, 2019

Dear Governor Walz,

I'm writing this letter in support of the Minnesota Historical Society's decision to include the Bdote in its new signage at Fort Snelling.

I represent the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), a Minnesota-based membership organization whose mission is "to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop healthy communities." LSP's core values—stewardship, justice, community, health, and democracy—are not possible to uphold without acknowledging the damaging effects of European-American settlement to indigenous communities and working towards healing.

The Minnesota Historical Society is actively engaging with this healing work. Before the spur of land at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers was called "Fort Snelling," it was known by the Dakota as "Bdote." To the Dakota, it has always been the Bdote. By striving to represent the perspectives of *all* Minnesotans—not just those of white settlers and soldiers – the Historical Society contributes to a more complete, and more accurate, public record. The Historical Society should be commended, and fully funded, for their work.

The Minnesota legislators threatening to withdraw \$4 million of funding from the MHS as punishment for "revisionist history" are missing the point. By acknowledging the diverse histories behind our state's most famous landmarks, we are creating a more welcoming and inclusive society. Attempts to block those histories from seeing the light of day are damaging to the people of our state, as they prevent us from coming together as a community.

Sincerely,

Mark Schultz
Executive Director

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
Kent Whitworth, CEO, Minnesota Historical Society