

To: Dee Allen – Tribal Representative to the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

From: Eric Chapman, Sr. – Chief Conservation Officer  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Lac du Flambeau, WI.

Subject: Topic for Legislative Consideration to the Joint Legislative Council

The Tribe's of Wisconsin take great pride in protecting the natural resources on the 11 Indians Reservations. Tribe's have committed financial resources to assure these resources, water, fish, wildlife, plants and forests are protected for future generations by employing On-Reservation Tribal Conservation Officer/Wardens.

These Tribal Conservation Officers/Wardens receive initial general law enforcement training similar or equal to what our tribal police officers receive. We also continue to receive refresher training in the field of law enforcement, in order to keep abreast of law enforcement techniques and strategies.

However, On-Reservation Conservation Officer's/Warden's lack jurisdiction over all persons that enter onto our Reservations and utilize these precious resources, specifically non-tribal members. We lack the authority to provide equal and just enforcement actions on all persons that commit violations of State and Tribal offenses.

We ask the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations to explore amending or create legislation similar to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Arrest and Assistance, State Stat.175.41 and/or Tribal Law Enforcement Powers and Duties, State Stat. 165.92.

By having jurisdiction authority over all persons regardless of residential status, On-Reservation Conservation Officers/Wardens can provide greater enforcement of natural resource laws and provide assistance to Tribal Police Officer's and County Sheriff's.

Thank you in advance for this legislative consideration.