



# HO-CHUNK NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

July 17, 2024

Regarding the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations issue of Establishing a State-Tribal Resource Office at/near the Capitol in Madison

From Ryan Greendeer, *Executive Government Relations Officer*

## REQUEST

To establish a space for tribal leaders and staff to interact/consult with State Agency/Officials (and its subdivisions). This space would be available for tribal officials/staff during business hours and outside of business hours as needed; ideally, each tribe would establish a regular schedule for walk-in meetings. This space would accommodate at least one workstation for each tribe; and could also accommodate hoteling space for agency staff. Meeting/conference room space should be available.

## BACKGROUND

The State of Wisconsin and 11 federally recognized tribes share a complex and evolving government to government relationship. Federal, state and tribal priorities and policies are often aligned on contemporary issues of concern, while the characteristics, circumstances and causation may be vastly different. Access to information during the development of objectives and solutions will improve efficacy and effect in a mutually beneficial response.

The Department of Administration provides information and assistance to American Indians in this state with respect to problems or issues of concern to the American Indian community.<sup>1</sup> Administration also manages state-owned facilities through the Bureau of Building Management. Current statutes and administrative rules provide authority for Administration to manage and lease state office buildings and facilities.<sup>2</sup> Administration also published the State of Wisconsin Facilities Tenant Manual – rules and information for state agency building occupants in state-owned and managed buildings & facilities.<sup>3</sup> Current law authorizes Administration to maintain intergovernmental affairs offices to conduct public outreach and promote coordination between agencies<sup>4</sup>, and a federal-state relations office in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of promoting federal-state cooperation.<sup>5</sup>

Currently, state office buildings have established normal business hours that meet the operational needs of tenant agencies; only authorized agency employees, building management, and Capitol Police staff are allowed in state facilities outside normal business hours. Agencies can submit requests for access for employees, vendors, and contractors.

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<sup>1</sup> [Wis. Stat. §16.06](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Wis. Stat. §16.84 \(1\)](#), Adm. 2.02

<sup>3</sup> [Facility Tenant Manual](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Wis. Stat. §16.004\(18\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Wis. Stat. §16.548](#)

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Create 16.061 The department may maintain a state-tribal relations office in Madison, for the purpose of promoting state-tribal cooperation.

Create 16.061(1) The department may enter into an agreement with a federally recognized tribe for the purposes described in this section.

