



Minnesota House of Representatives

October 18, 2019

Dear Minnesota Historical Society,

We, the undersigned legislators, would like to express our support and appreciation of your efforts to bring the good folks of Minnesota into the discussion to include the place name at Historic Fort Snelling - Bdote. It is important that as a state, we acknowledge and embrace the historic significance at the site we call Fort Snelling, located on sacred lands of those who lived there long before white settlers arrived and before this land was renamed Minnesota by its colonizers -- from its original Dakota name, "Minisota", meaning *the reflection of the sky onto the water*. We write to support the inclusion of the Dakota word "Bdote" in the place name of the Minnesota Historical society site.

We affirm the understanding that indigenous place names carry knowledge that has been passed from generation to generation - they are the story maps that once connected Indigenous peoples to significant sites and that guided them from place to place. Our Dakota and Anishinabe people have kept their Bdote place connection strong, despite the centuries of assimilation and the devastating efforts to erase Minnesota's indigenous culture and communities.

As legislators, we applaud the efforts of the Minnesota Historical Society to bear witness to the place called Bdote, the *place where two rivers meet* in the Dakota language. The historical society's own Minnesota History text book teaches young people that Bdote is believed by Dakota people to be the place of origin of their people and long a place for celebrations and trade. By including "Bdote" in the name of the site, the state's historical society rightfully recognizes the significance of the multiple histories at that place that is inclusive of more Minnesotans.

In Minnesota, we are pleased to find many indigenous place names that contribute to the preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Dakota and Anishinabe histories, languages, and cultures. As the Minnesota Historical Society works in partnership with our Indigenous peoples to restore the traditional place name, Bdote, which reflects the culture of the original inhabitants of this state, we pledge our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Kunesh-Podein".

Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Hortman".

Speaker Melissa Hortman



Majority Leader Ryan Winkler



Rep. Jim Davnie



Rep. Steve Sandell



Rep. Jeff Brand



Rep. Sandra Masin



Rep. Jay Xiong



Rep. Michael Howard



Rep. Alice Hausman



Rep. Anne Claflin



Rep. Fue Lee



Rep. Liz Olson



Rep. Ami Wazlawik



Rep. Mike Freiberg



Rep. Laurie Pryor



Rep. Robert Bierman



Rep. Samantha Vang



Rep. Brad Tabke



Rep. Mohamud Noor



Rep. Frank Hornstein



Rep. Jean Wagenius

Dave Pinto

Rep. Dave Pinto

John Lesch

Rep. John Lesch

Kelly Morrison

Rep. Kelly Morrison

John Huot

Rep. John Huot

John Persell

Rep. John Persell

Aisha Gomez

Rep. Aisha Gomez

Peter M Fischer

Rep. Peter Fischer

Cheryl Youakim

Rep. Cheryl Youakim

Kaohly Her

Rep. Kaohly Her

Diane Loeffler

Rep. Diane Loeffler

Steve Elkins

Rep. Steve Elkins

Jen Schultz

Rep. Jen Schultz

Kelly Moller

Rep. Kelly Moller

Connie Bernardy

Rep. Connie Bernardy

Jack Considine

Rep. Jack Considine

Ruth Richardson

Rep. Ruth Richardson

Rick Hansen

Rep. Rick Hansen

Ginny Kleavorn

Rep. Ginny Kleavorn

Heather Edelson

Rep. Heather Edelson

Jamie Long

Rep. Jamie Long

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the name "Todd Lippert" written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Todd Lippert

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the name "Raymond Dehn" written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Raymond Dehn

English	Dakhóta	Dakhóta Translation	Anishinaabe	Anishinaabe Translation
Crow River	Khaŋǵi Wakpá	Crow River	Aandegwigwan-ziibi	Crow Wing River
Lake Calhoun	Bde Makhá Ska	White Earth Lake	Gaa-waabaabiganikaag-zaaga'igan	White Earth Lake
Lake Harriet	Bdé Umán	Other Lake	Bakegamaa	Side Lake
Lake Minnetonka	Mní Thánka / Bde lá Thánka	Great Water / Great Talking Lake	Misi-zaaga'igan	Grand Lake
Mendota	Bdóte	Confluence	Zaagiwakiing	At the Outlet-land
Minneapolis	Bdeóta Othúnwe	Many Lakes City	Gakaabikaang	At the Waterfalls
Minnehaha Creek	Mníhaŋa Wakpádaŋ	Waterfall Creek	Gakaabikejiwani-ziibiins	Little River of Waterfalled Stream
Minnehaha Falls	Mníhaŋa	Waterfall	Gakaabikejiwan	Waterfalled Stream
Minnesota River	Mnísoota Wakpá	Clear Water River	Ashkibagi-ziibi	Greenleaf River
Mississippi River	Ĥaĥáwakpa / Wakpá Thánka	River of the Falls / Great River	Misi-ziibi	Great River
Nicollet Island	Wíta Wašté	Good Island	Chi-minis	Big Island
Shakopee	Šákpe	Six [Chief Shakopee]	Zhaagobaying	At [Chief] Shakopee's [Village]
St. Anthony Falls	Owámni / Owámniyomni	Falling Water	Gichi-gakaabikaa	Great Waterfalls
St. Croix River	Hoǵán Waŋká kiŋ	Where the Fish Lies	Jiibyaatigo-ziibi	Gravemarker River
St. Paul	Imnížaska Othúnwe	Little White Rock City	Ashkibagi-ziibiing	At the Greenleaf River
White Bear Lake	Mathó Ska Bde	White Bear Lake	Waabi-makwa-zaaga'igan	White Bear Lake