

# COMMITTEE STATEMENT

## State-Tribal Relations

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**A committee statement to express support for the tribes and tribal members during these challenging times.**

WHEREAS, under SDCL 2-6-23 the State-Tribal Relations Committee serves as a forum for the discussion of issues of mutual concern to the state and the tribes and has an obligation to attempt to foster state-tribal cooperation;

WHEREAS, the committee supports tribal sovereignty and the tribal citizenry of the state. The committee recognizes that the tribes possess powers of self-government that predate the formation of the United States;

WHEREAS, the committee appreciates the efforts of the state to work with the tribes during the pandemic and supports the continued efforts by the executive branch to provide personal protective equipment and testing kits;

WHEREAS, the committee also encourages the state to assist the tribes in seeking federal resources that would benefit the lives of tribal members and all South Dakotans;

WHEREAS, the committee expresses a willingness to provide support and to foster reconciliation during this important time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT EXPRESSED, by the South Dakota Legislature's State-Tribal Relations Committee, that the committee shows its support for the tribes and expresses its willingness to facilitate discussions that would foster state-tribal cooperation.

**Members:** Representatives Shawn Bordeaux (Chair), Steven Haugaard, Peri Pourier, Tony Randolph, and Tamara St. John; and Senators Red Dawn Foster, Troy Heinert, Phil Jensen, Lance Russell, and VJ Smith.