

**SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF VICTORIA KITCHEYAN
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES
LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON
“H.R.2402 - THE WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2021”
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

On behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, I would like to thank and recognize tribal council member Louis “Louie” Larose for his continuous and tireless efforts to help the Tribe regain its land. Without his unceasing commitment to the Winnebago People, I do not believe we would be here today with a bill before the United States House of Representatives.

Councilman Larose has served on the Winnebago Tribal Council intermittently for the past 50 years. He was the Tribe’s Chairman in the early 1970s when the land at Snyder’s Bend was illegally condemned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He bore witness to the proceedings where our lands were lost. He sits on the Council today. During his service to the Tribe, he has not given up on getting our land back and we have never been closer to the moment when our land will finally be returned to the Tribe.

Councilman Larose has been a leader not only for the Winnebago people, but for all of Indian Country. He was one of the main drivers behind the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. He was also a named plaintiff in the Cobell class action lawsuit. Passage of the Winnebago Land Transfer Act would be among a long line of the many contributions Louie has made to the Winnebago people and Native Americans.

We commend a very special tribal member, Louie Larose, for all of his dedication to and work on behalf of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.