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State of the Tribes and Assembly Floor Session

Madison – Today, President John Johnson Sr. of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians delivered the 17th annual Wisconsin State of the Tribes address in the Assembly Chambers. Following the address, the Wisconsin State Assembly convened to debate and pass dozens of bills. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) issued this statement following adjournment:

“Today, we heard President John Johnson Sr. outline the priorities of Wisconsin’s eleven sovereign tribal nations. Among many issues he emphasized that with meaningful consultation between sovereign members and the Legislature, we can find consensus. This is one of the reasons I appreciate serving on the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations. I know that collaboration and hard work can lead to important reforms. President John Johnson Sr. also spoke about the tremendous impact that the Legislature’s actions have on people who live in Wisconsin. I think of this every time the Assembly debates or votes on a bill.

“I had the opportunity to weigh this responsibility today when the Assembly convened for debate. Unfortunately, the Assembly passed Assembly Bill 173. I voted against this bill because, among many things, it disqualifies individuals from serving as an election official. Furthermore, I believe the bill inappropriately limits who may assist with elections. AB 173 prohibits members of issue advocacy groups like MOSES and ACLU from serving as poll workers but allows campaign treasurers and partisan county party chairs to serve in this capacity. I know my local election officials have had difficulty finding poll workers in the past year. It doesn’t seem right that this bill limits that pool of possible volunteers while allowing partisan volunteers to stay involved in the process.”

“Thank you to President John Johnson Sr. for addressing the Joint Legislature today. Thank you also for bringing this message to us. I will continue to think about the impact of my work on all who reside in Wisconsin and will continue to work towards better outcomes for everyone on health, mental health, elections, and more.”

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