



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Many American Indian and Alaska Native people and communities have a unique relationship with traditional sacred tobacco; and
- WHEREAS: Traditional tobacco, Asemaa in Ojibwemowin and Caṅsasa in Dakota, is sacred medicine used for spiritual and medicinal purposes by many American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS: American Indian and Alaska Native Communities have experienced a long history of appropriation and commercialization of tobacco; and
- WHEREAS: The use of traditional sacred tobacco helps dissuade the use of commercial tobacco products and vapes among American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS: The 1883 federal ban of traditional sacred tobacco use for American Indian and Alaska Native communities placed an undue burden on American Indian and Alaska Native people who used tobacco for ceremonial offerings; and
- WHEREAS: The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 was approved on August 11, 1978, repealing the federal prohibition on using traditional sacred tobacco; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, traditional sacred tobacco is now permitted on school grounds as part of religious or cultural practices; and
- WHEREAS: American Indian and Alaska Native Communities have maintained their knowledge, values, and cultural practices connected with traditional sacred tobacco as a medicine for spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical guidance and healing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, August 11, 2023, as:

TRADITIONAL SACRED TOBACCO DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 11th day of August.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.
SECRETARY OF STATE