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1855 TREATY AUTHORITY

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2015

NOTICE OF OFF-RESERVATION WILD RICE HARVESTING SEASON GIVEN TO GOVERNOR DAYTON BY CHIPPEWA

Rice Lake, MN -- Last week the 1855 Treaty Authority sent Minnesota Governor Dayton and other federal and state officials Notice of their 2015 off-reservation wild rice harvesting by Chippewa tribal members exercising their reserved treaties rights, in the 1855 ceded territory.

In his letter to Governor Dayton, Archie LaRose, Chairman of the 1855 Treaty Authority pointed out several concerns where the state of Minnesota has failed to protectively manage important natural resources including Mille Lacs Lake walleye, unilaterally offering to suspend wild rice sulfate standards and the PUC unilaterally granting eminent domain authority for Bakken and Canadian tar sands crude oil pipelines across new, wild rice lakes and rivers, watersheds and aquifers, without any consultation with the Chippewa.

"I have learned that the Chippewa have many treaties with the United States that protect our usufructuary rights to hunt, fish and gather throughout most of Minnesota north of I-94." said LaRose, adding "Wild rice is the most important gift from the Creator that we are all taught to protect and respect as a sacred food and medicine. That is why we are seeking federal action to protect our essential freshwater resources and wild rice, forever."

Attached to the August 7th letter to Governor Dayton was a July 15, 2015, letter Petition from the 1855 Treaty Authority to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of Interior seeking EPA environmental protection.

The 1855 Treaty Authority fully understands the state of Minnesota it has no legal authority to regulate tribal member's treaty rights to harvest wild rice and gave "caution against seizure of any wild rice or harvesting equipment from anyone with a tribal identification card, during the short time window critical for tribal member's harvesting wild rice an important part of learning about us living."

Questions and requests for interviews and information should be directed to:

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TREATY WITH THE CHIPPEWA, 1855.

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