

STATEMENT
KEENAN GROESBECK
CHAIRMAN
NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE
UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION

The Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Indian Reservation is a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe, the Northern Arapaho Business Council is the duly elected governing body of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and is vested with the authority to protect and advance the rights, sovereignty, welfare, culture, ceremonies and interest of the Tribe and its members.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe is a member of the family of original Peyote Tribes within the ceremony used in America. We are deeply vested in the political, legal, and ethical challenges now facing Peyote – Mescaline by the non – Indian community.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe has inherent sovereign authority to speak for itself, protect its government interest, preserve its cultural and religious ways and determine who may speak on behalf of the tribe.

As a Tribal Nation we strongly condemn the fraudulent misrepresentation by unauthorized representation of Tribal Nations and historic democratic institutions of the Native American Church. The deployment of individual independent tribal members by the River Styx foundations and other interests in the psychedelic industry is undermining tribal sovereignty, falsely creating the appearance of Tribal Nation alliances with principals and psychedelic interest, creating public confusion, and falsely suggesting Tribal Nation consent.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe expresses critical concern regarding the elevation and highlighting of research that is done without the consent of Tribal Nations, co-design, data sovereignty, and co- ownership of Tribal Nations. Our intellectual property, traditional knowledge, cultural, religious resources and knowledge is not for sale nor is it allowed to be disseminated in the public domain.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe rejects efforts surrounding “Shared Benefit”, Reciprocity, or Cultural Appreciation of genetic resources, medicine access, or any form of transaction involving traditional knowledge.

These concepts have been advanced by the psychedelic movement without any regard to the Tribal Nations that are the stewards of this sacred knowledge. The deployment of unauthorized individuals by the psychedelic community has created the appearance that there is a monetary exchange that can pacify Tribal Nations. The Northern Arapaho Tribe asserts clearly that our way of life is not for sale and that there is no amount of money that can purchase access to our knowledge, ceremonies, medicines and sacred teachings.

We maintain critical concern that outside organizations, private companies, advocacy groups, academic institutions, self-authorized tribal members with financial ties to the industry, speakers, and self-described allies within the broader psychedelic movement will continue to advance their policy goals without the involvement of legitimate bodies of Tribal Nation representation.

Any discussions surrounding Peyote and Mescaline, Traditional knowledge, federal Indian law, consent, advocacy with Congress and the Administration and decriminalization state initiatives must respect Tribal sovereignty, government to government consultation and Tribal nation authority.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe will continue to monitor the psychedelic movement and its use of unauthorized individuals and non-governmental organizations and will use all available legal remedies to mitigate fraudulent misrepresentation.