



## STATEMENT ON INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The Alliance for the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve (DELE) is committed to communicating with Indigenous individuals, Indigenous-affiliated allies, and cultural groups, State-recognized Tribes, and federally recognized Tribal Nations in our efforts to create a legislative proposal for the DELE. The Alliance's redesignation efforts include the moral obligation to acknowledge all Delaware/Lenape Tribes as concerned stakeholders as it relates to environmental impacts, ceremonial sites, and cultural properties existing in the DELE. We acknowledge the government-to-government relationship and sovereign presence of removed and dispossessed federally recognized Tribal Nations of the Lenapehoking now in Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Canada. Their relocation does not diminish their claim to rights within the ancestral territory.

The federal government via the *Joint Secretary's Order 3403* of 2021 affirms its commitment to honor the Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous communities inclusive of status beyond federal recognition. We support that policy and commit to engage in dialogue that elevates protections of Indigenous identity, territory, and culture.