

Resolution of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, June 18, 2002

Whereas, the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (the "Tribe") is composed of descendants of, and is the political successor to, signatories of the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, 1807 Treaty of Detroit, the 1821 Treaty of Chicago, the 1836 Treaty of Washington, and the 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

Whereas, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Bay Mills Indian Community, whose members are also descendants of the signatories to the 1836 Treaty of Washington and the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, have been recognized by the Federal Government as distinct Indian Tribes.

Whereas, the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, consists of at least 1,000 enrolled members who continue to reside close to their ancestral lands in the Grand River Valley and other river valleys in the west central region of Michigan.

Whereas, the Tribe filed for reorganization of their existing tribal governments in 1935 under the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Indian Reorganization Act"). Federal agents who visited the Tribe including Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier, who authored the Act, attested to the continued social and political existence of the Tribe and concluded that the Tribe was eligible for reorganization. Due to a lack of federal appropriations to implement the provisions of the Act, the Tribe was denied the opportunity to reorganize.

Whereas, in spite of such denial, the Tribe continued its political and social existence as a viable tribal government that interacts on a continuing basis with other tribal governments. The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, along with other Michigan Odawa/Ottawa groups including the tribes described in Paragraph (2), formed the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association in 1948. The Association subsequently pursued a successful land claim with the Indian Claims Commission.

Whereas, between 1948 and 1975, the Tribe carried out many of its governmental functions through the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association, while retaining individual tribal control over decisions affecting its members (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians in Indian Claims Commission Docket 40-K, one-quarter or more degree blood quantum).

Whereas, in 1975, the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association petitioned under the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Indian Reorganization Act"), to form a government on behalf of the Grand River Bands of

Ottawa Indians and other Bands of Ottawa. The Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to act on their request.

Whereas, the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians is the only Ottawa treaty tribe in Michigan that has not been restored to recognition.

Whereas, the United States Government, the Government of the State of Michigan, and local governments have had continuous dealings with the recognized political leaders of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians from 1795 to the present.

Whereas, the Tribe filed a completed petition to the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research at the Bureau of Indian Affairs on December 8, 2000 requesting recognition as a federal tribe with a government to government relationship with the United States and having the benefit of the trust obligations of the United States that is owed to American Indian tribal governments.

Whereas, the Tribe has received no reply or response from the BAR as to the status of their petition.

Whereas, the United States holds several million dollars in trust for the Tribe under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, P.L. 105-143 (111 Stat. 2652) for tribal operations, programs and distributions to members.

Whereas, if recognition is not accomplished, the money will paid to individuals who are descendants of the treaty tribes and no funds will be available for the Tribe's government operations; and

Whereas, the State of Michigan intends to bring a claim against Michigan Indian Tribes relating to inland hunting and fishing treaty rights under the 1836 Treaty of Washington. The GRBOI, the modern successor to the historic tribe that was signatory to the treaty, will not be eligible to participate in such lawsuit to protect its vested and legal treaty rights until recognition is established, even though its rights derive from the same treaty as the other recognized Michigan tribes who will be party to the lawsuit.

Whereas, the Tribe cannot intervene in cases involving the welfare and custody rights of its children under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and,

GRAND RIVER BANDS OF OTTAWA INDIANS RESOLUTION

3 of 4

Whereas, the Tribe is being denied the right to repatriate the remains of ancestors under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001) and to protect their sacred sites because they are not yet federally recognized;

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved that,

The Tribe request the Congress to enact legislation directing the Department of the Interior through its Bureau of Indian Affairs' Branch of Acknowledgment and Research to complete final action on the petition of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians by no later than December 8, 2005, and

The Tribe shall request the United States Congress to grant the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians the right to intervene in any lawsuit in any federal court that involves its treaty rights; and

The Tribe shall request the United States Congress to direct federal agencies that Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians be considered a federally recognized tribe for purposes of NAGPRA and any other federal laws designed to protect the sacred sites and religious freedoms of Native Americans.

The Tribe shall request the United States Congress to allow the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians to intervene in cases under the Indian Child Welfare Act that involve children of members of the Tribe.

This resolution was agreed to on the 18th of June, 2002 by conducting a telephone conference call of all available members of the Council of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, five members voting in favor and no members voting against and no members abstaining.

Attested by:

Ron Yob, Chairman
Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians

Frances Compo, Secretary
Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians

GRAND RIVER BANDS OF OTTAWA INDIANS RESOLUTION

4 of 4

Those present on the call were: Ron Yob, Chairperson; Gilbert DiPiazza Jr., Vice Chairperson; Patsy Beatty, Treasurer; Frances Compo, Secretary; Elmer Knox, Councilor, and Patrick Wilson, Councilor. Joseph Genia, Anna Detz and Phillip Cantu, Councilors, were not available for the call.