

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288

Resolution # 03-1015-351

Expressing Opposition to Construction of the Northern Lights Project

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhing Ziibi Daáwaa Aniřhinaábek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined that federal laws support Tribal government's sovereign authority to legislate strict air and water quality standards that exceed state and federal standards in order to protect the natural resources of the Tribe for the benefit of the Tribe and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has been notified of the development of the Northern Lights Project by the Tondue Corporation on the current site of the General Chemical Plant which is located off Manistee Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has received reports from the Conservation Department which identifies the rehabilitation of the Sturgeon species into Manistee River and ultimately Manistee Lake in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has approved actions, and received federal grant funds, to re-introduce wild rice plants into Manistee Lake which plantings are taking root and improving; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has approved actions, and received federal grant funds, to monitor the fish and amphibian populations and plant life in the Manistee River and Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has an interest in maintaining and improving plant, fish, and wildlife populations within the Tribe's Reservation and Ceded Territories and has worked cooperatively with local governments in order to promote this interest, developed a Conservation Department with the necessary technical expertise to promote this interest, and created a Natural Resource Commission to monitor and report to the Tribal Council regarding these interests; and


WHEREAS, the Tribal Council believes that changes to the waste discharge into Manistee Lake and River systems will detrimentally affect the rehabilitated Sturgeon population and re-introduced plant life;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby adopts this resolution opposing the issuance of a Special Use Permit by the City of Manistee, Air Quality Permits by state and/or federal agencies, and other permits that would allow construction of the proposed Northern Lights Project.

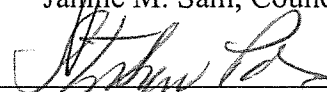
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council hereby directs the Conservation Department to develop the necessary technical papers which would identify the effects of this proposed project on the Manistee Lake and River systems.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 7 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 2 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on October 15, 2003, at the Little River Band's Community Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Jamne M. Sam, Council Recorder



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

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