

**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**

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

**Resolution # 04-0310-113**

*Expressing Opposition to State Legislation Approving Racinos in House Bill #'s 4609 and 4610 Collectively Titled the Agriculture Enhancement Package*

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek* (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 Tribe and the State of Michigan have entered into Gaming Compacts authorized under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State of Michigan have identified the mutually beneficial effects of Indian gaming on the local economy by increasing local dollar expenditures in hotel, dining, travel, recreation and visitors to the Manistee area specifically; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State of Michigan have identified a mutually agreed upon amount of funds to offset additional policing and transportation, and loss tax revenues for local area governments as a result of Indian gaming and placement of gaming related lands into trust; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe and the State of Michigan negotiated this Gaming Compact with a full awareness of the needs, costs and application of funds derived from Indian gaming to the Tribal governmental activities which supplement and/or replace state governmental activities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is now considering adoption of legislation that would allow racinos to be developed at racetracks located in Michigan whose purported economic benefit would be the agricultural industry and increased state revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians does not believe that clear financial impacts and income results have been developed and/or reviewed by the State of Michigan that would identify the effect of the proposed state legislation approving racinos in House Bill #'s 4609 and 4610, (*collectively titled the Agriculture Enhancement Package*) on local communities, the agricultural industry, or loss of state revenues through reduction in taxes and fees from other industries, including those developed under Gaming Compacts; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians does not believe that there is an adequate analysis of employment opportunities resulting from the proposed Agriculture Enhancement Package that would offset job losses in Indian casinos and surrounding communities as a result of the impact of the proposed racinos created by the proposed Agriculture Enhancement Package; and

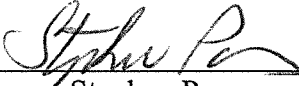
WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians does not believe that there is an adequate analysis of the impact of increased governmental services that would occur, or failure to provide for increased governmental services, in the event of a negative impact on existing economies that surround Indian gaming;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby expresses its opposition to the proposed state legislation approving racinos in House Bill # 4609 and 4610 collectively titled the Agriculture Enhancement Package and requests at the minimum that the State of Michigan to develop an adequate analysis of the impact of this legislation on local communities which will be negatively impacted by racino businesses being developed in racetrack forums.

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 8 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on March 10, 2004, at the Little River Band's Dome Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa M. McCatty, Acting Council Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest: