

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

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

Resolution # 04-0609-243

Opposing H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793 Regarding Proposed Settlement of Land Claims of the Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa

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, two bills have been presented to the Congress (H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793) to provide for the settlement of certain land claims of the Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and

WHEREAS, a hearing on H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793 has been scheduled by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources on June 9, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined that the efforts of Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to seek legislation (H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793), to have off-reservation lands placed into trust for purposes of developing gaming operations will undermine the purposes of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Tribal-State Compacts and the established process for resolving Tribal land claims; and

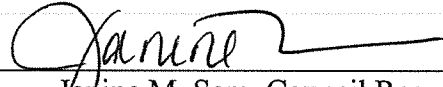
WHEREAS, H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793 sets a potentially dangerous precedent of settling land claims litigation prior to a determination of the merits of the claim and further proposes compensation in the form of authorization to utilize certain "alternative lands", which are located outside the traditional, historical Chippewa territories for gaming purposes in conflict with the processes defined in the Indian Regulatory Act and the Tribal-State Compacts.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, for the foregoing reasons, and as the same are further explained in the June 7, 2004 correspondence from Council Speaker Parsons, hereby states its strong and unequivocal opposition to the passage of H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793.

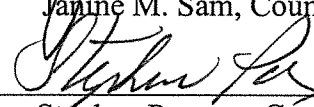
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Tribal Council requests that a copy of this resolution and the June 7, 2004 correspondence from Council Speaker Parsons be made a part of the hearing record on H.R. 831 and H.R. 2793.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 9 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 0 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on June 9, 2004, at the Little River Band's Dome Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Janine M. Sam, Council Recorder



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
House Committee on Resources
Congressman Peter Hoekstra
Congressman Dale E. Kildee