

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

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

Resolution # 05-0119-18

*Supporting the Narragansett Tribe's Efforts to Protect Its
Tribal Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity*

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 Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island (hereafter "the Narragansett Tribe") is a sovereign tribal government, recognized by the Federal Government through the final administrative action on February 10, 1983, thereafter exercising federally recognized rights as such; and

WHEREAS, the Narragansett Tribe settled certain land claims concerning lands in the State of Rhode Island, which settlement agreement was implemented, in part, by the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement, codified at 25 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act provided that lands restored to the Narragansett Tribe under the terms of that settlement would be subject to the civil and criminal laws and jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, as a result of ambiguities created by the language of the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act's provisions extending jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island to Narragansett Tribal lands, the State of Rhode Island has asserted broad powers over the activities of the Narragansett Tribe and intruded on the

Narragansett Tribe's ability to carry out governmental activities and promote economic development on its Reservation lands; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has asserted its authority in a manner that totally disregards the status of the Narragansett Tribe as a sovereign and the Narragansett Tribe's interest in raising revenues to fund critical services to serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island entered an opinion in the case *Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island v Rhode Island* (296 F. Supp.2nd 153)(Dec. 29, 2003), which purports to impose limits on the sovereignty of the Narragansett Tribe which do not exist for any other Indian tribal government and which are inconsistent with the Narragansett Tribe's status as a federally recognized Tribal government and the terms of the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians supports the efforts of the Narragansett Tribe to seek clarification of its rights and status as a sovereign and to protect the political integrity of its Reservation.

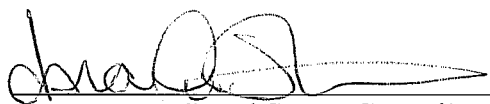
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians does hereby support the efforts of the Narragansett Tribe to obtain recognition of its rights as a sovereign and its right to political integrity within its Reservation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council supports any efforts by the Narragansett Tribe to obtain assistance from the Secretary of the Interior or the United States Congress to clarify the rights of the Narragansett Tribe as a federally-recognized Indian Tribe to assure that the Narragansett Tribe's authority to carry out its governmental responsibilities within its Reservation are recognized and respected by the State of Rhode Island.

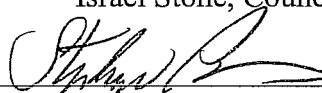
IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians urges officials from the State of Rhode Island to respect the territorial integrity of the Narragansett Tribe's Reservation and to work cooperatively with Tribal officials to resolve legal and political disputes and to refrain from unilateral assertions of authority that ignore the rights and status of the Narragansett Tribe as a sovereign.

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 January 19, 2005, at the Little River Band's Dome Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Israel Stone, Council Member



Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Tribal Court
Narragansett Tribe of Indians