



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

2608 Government Center Drive

Manistee, MI 49660

(231) 723-8288

Resolution #18-0228-080

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Support for the Native Farm Bill Coalition

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 Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on July 11, 2016 which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on August 24, 2016; 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 Congress of the United States is preparing to deliberate the nature of agriculture policy for the nation, and the world, in the form of the 2018 Farm Bill; which will authorize all farm programs, rural development, and nutrition initiatives within the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, economic development in Indian Country is tied to agriculture production, which is among the largest industries in Indian Country; providing \$3.4 billion per year, and the policies that provide the framework within which this production happens constitute a large portion of the Farm Bill;

WHEREAS, not only is an overwhelming majority of the land in Indian Country in agriculture production; a great many of the citizens and tribal members live in rural areas and communities where basic infrastructure costs are often prohibitively high; and the 2018 Farm Bill will provide an authorization of federal funding for rural infrastructure initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and members of these areas are often afflicted by a poverty of place, wherein they are unable to find suitable employment to provide adequate income that supports good nutrition for their families; and thus, may rely on federal nutrition programs authorized in the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, despite great strides made for Indian Country agriculture in previous Farm Bill negotiations; from going virtually unmentioned in the 1990s to many thoughtful provisions scattered across all Titles; the \$3.4 billion generated annually through Indian Agricultural efforts is still more than 99% raw commodities, instead of the healthy, local, economically beneficial, and nutritious food needed in Indian Country communities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, an effort is underway by the Native Farm Bill Coalition, led by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), the Indigenous Food and Agricultural Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law (IFAI), and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to preserve and expand upon the gains made in the previous 30 years of Farm Bill discussions in each of the aforementioned areas; and

WHEREAS, this effort is the best opportunity in decades for Indian Country to effectively advocate and lobby for enactment of truly relevant and targeted legislation to ensure that federal agriculture policy seeks to enhance the development of this industry beyond raw commodities.

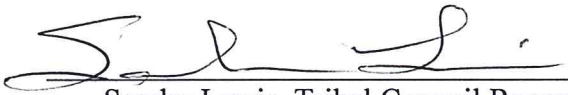
NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians joins the Native Farm Bill Coalition and supports the "Regaining Our Future" report and the policy initiative generated therefrom.

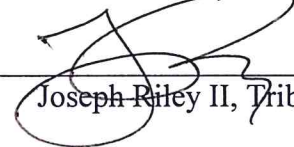
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians requests the Michigan Congressional Delegation to lend their support to effective deliberation and swift passage of the priorities set out by the Native Farm Bill Coalition.

FINALLY IT IS RESOLVED THAT this shall remain the position of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians until repealed or replaced by a subsequent resolution.

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 Closed Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on February 28, 2018, at the Little River Band's Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.


Sandra Lewis, Tribal Council Recorder


Joseph Riley II, Tribal Council Speaker