



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Tribal Council  
2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288**

**Resolution #19-1204-323**

*Resolution in Support of the Nomination of Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee as the  
Director of the Indian Health Service*

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 welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee, an enrolled member of the Zuni Indian Tribe, has been nominated to be the Director of the Indian Health Service at the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, RADM Weahkee has demonstrated that he is dedicated to the Indian Health Service field and qualified for the key position of Director of Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council wishes to express its supports of the nomination of RADM Weahkee and requests that Senate Committee of Indian Affairs support his confirmation

as Director of the Indian Health Service in the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes and supports the Tribal Ogema executing the letter of support for nomination of RADM Weahkee as Director of Indian Health Service on behalf of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 6 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 3 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on December 4, 2019, at the Little River Band's Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



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Gary Di Pizza, Tribal Council Recorder



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Ronald Pete, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Tribal Council  
Tribal Ogema  
Unified Legal Department



*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Office of Tribal Ogema  
2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, MI 49660  
231-723-8288*

December 4, 2019

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
ATTN: Senator John Hoeven, Chairman  
838 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven:

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians strongly supports the nomination of Rear Admiral (RADM) Michael D. Weahkee of the Zuni Indian Tribe, and ask that you support his confirmation as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). RADM Weahkee has served as the Principal Deputy Director and Acting Director of the IHS for the past two and a half years, and in that time he has proven that he is capable and dedicated to improving the Agency and raising the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

RADM Weahkee is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served as a military public health specialist. He obtained his bachelor of science in health care management degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and both a master of health services administration and master of business administration degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

RADM Weahkee has served in a variety of different roles within the Indian Health system of care, including in both the federal and tribal setting. He has served in the field, at the service unit and regional office level, as well as at IHS headquarters at the national level. RADM Weahkee has successfully led the Agency forward in a very trying time, overseeing the development and implementation of a new five year strategic plan for the Agency, the first in over a decade. He has pressed the Agency forward to address long-standing and unimplemented, external oversight recommendations from the Government Accountability Office and the HHS Office of Inspector General. He established and implemented a new Office of Quality at the IHS Headquarters level, to ensure appropriate management oversight and accountability by the Area Offices and federal service unit hospitals and health centers. In partnership with the Administration for Native Americans Commissioner, RADM Weahkee revitalized the HHS Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs, to provide a forum internally at HHS to discuss the needs and interests of Indian country.

RADM Weahkee has moved the Agency forward in a positive manner, and in a relatively short amount of time. He has traveled extensively throughout Indian country to see and hear firsthand the challenges and issues that native communities face in addressing the various health concerns that they are confronted with. Thank you for your strong consideration of this endorsement.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry B. Romanelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Romanelli, Tribal Ogema

Enclosure