



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Tribal Council**

2608 Government Center Drive  
Manistee, MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288

**Resolution #22-1109-203**

*Resolution Authorizing Little River Bands of Ottawa Indians as Signatory to a letter to President Biden to direct the EPA to establish ballast water discharge standards to comply with the Clean Water Act*

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) of the Constitution to provide for the public health, peace, morals and education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Research on Aquatic Bioinvasions has drafted a letter asking President Biden to direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish ballast water discharge standards that comply with the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, EPA's dereliction of its legal obligation has resulted in billions of dollars of environmental and economic damage in marine, estuarine and fresh waters of the United States, as reported by federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, this month will mark the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, yet EPA has still not established ballast water discharge standards that conform with the Act. EPA must be directed to meet its Clean Water Act obligations after decades of neglect; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has been negatively impacted by the ballast water discharge in the Great Lakes specifically invasive organisms that have destroyed the white fish population; and

WHEREAS, it is in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indian's interests to support the President's work to implement discharge standards to ensure the future of the treaty waters; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby authorizes Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, through the Ogema, to be as signatory of the Letter to President Biden to direct the EPA to establish ballast water discharge standards to comply with the Clean Water Act.

**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 an Emergency Open Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on November 9, 2022, via ZOOM, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Ron Wittenberg, Tribal Council Recorder



Shannon Crampton, Tribal Council Speaker

cc: Council Records  
Tribal Ogema  
Unified Legal