



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

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

Resolution #26-0708-106

Resolution Opposing the Development of AI Data Centers in Treaty Ceded Territory

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 Treaty of Chicago [August 29, 1821; 7 Stat 218], the Treaty of Washington [March 28, 1836; 7 Stat 491], and the Treaty of Detroit [July 31, 1855; 11 Stat 621] 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 Tribe has a responsibility to past, present, and future generations to protect treaty-reserved rights, which includes the lands, waters, air, wildlife, and other natural and cultural resources upon which those rights depend; and

WHEREAS, Artificial Intelligence ("AI") data centers and related hyperscale computing facilities typically require intensive energy generation and transmission infrastructure, significant land disturbance, and extraordinarily large volumes of water for cooling and operation; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of AI data centers and related hyperscale computing facilities pose documented and foreseeable risks of environmental harm, specifically to protected treaty-reserved rights, including but not limited to: depletion of surface and groundwater resources, thermal pollution, discharge of heated or chemically treated wastewater, degradation of water quality affecting lakes, rivers, wetlands, and aquifers, habitat fragmentation, noise, light pollution, and harm to fish, wildlife, and plant species; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impacts of large-scale industrial and technological development within the Treaty Ceded Territory have already placed significant stress on treaty ecosystems and treaty water resources; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Council recognizes the importance of economic development and regional investment; however, it must not come at the expense of environmental integrity, community well-being, or the health and safety of tribal people.

WHEREAS, the Tribe has not consented to the siting, construction, or operation of AI data centers or related hyperscale computing facilities within the Treaty Ceded Territory; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development and use of their lands and other resources.

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council demands consultation and cooperation in good faith for parties to gain free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting Treaty Ceded Territory and other resources in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water, or other resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council hereby reaffirms that any activity threatening the treaty rights within the Treaty Ceded Territory is inconsistent with the Tribe's inherent sovereignty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council opposes the development of AI Data Centers and hyperscale computing facilities within the Treaty Ceded Territory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council formally recognizes the natural resource, cultural resource, and environmental harms associated with AI data centers, including excessive water use, wastewater discharge, energy demand, and ecosystem disruption, as incompatible with the long-term health of the ceded territory; and

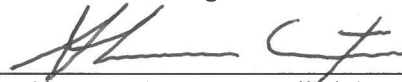
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council directs the tribal leadership, and tribal staff to use this Resolution in advocacy, consultation, permitting proceedings, and litigation, as appropriate, to prevent the siting or operation of AI data centers and related hyperscale computing facilities within the Treaty Ceded Territory.

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 Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on July 8th, 2026, via ZOOM and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Government Center with a quorum being present for such vote.



Allen Metzger, Tribal Council Recorder



Shannon Crampton, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Tribal Court

