



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

ADAM HOLLIER

2ND DISTRICT

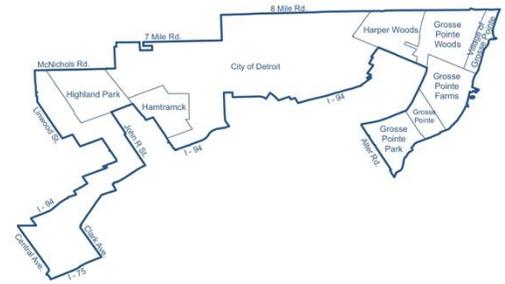
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May 25, 2022

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

I am writing to urge your support for the federal recognition of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians and to protect the ancestral homelands of the Grand River people. As an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma, I share your interest in ensuring justice for the Native people in our state.

The Grand River Bands has been seeking federal recognition for over 25 years. I understand that the United States Department of Interior (DOI) has recently informed the Tribe that its recognition petition is under "active consideration" and the Department expects to issue its "proposed findings" by October 12, 2022. I understand that our Congressional delegation, on a bi-partisan basis, supports DOI's decision to issue a "proposed finding" on the petition. I am confident that Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native Americans Secretary of the Interior, will bring long awaited justice to the Grand River people.

Governor, I am also aware that you have a decision to make on the Two-Part Determination for another Tribe seeking to build a casino in the Muskegon area. I would strongly urge you to reject this application that would forever take away the historical lands of the Grand River Bands.

I know that you are fully aware of the importance of homelands to Indian people. The Grand River Bands have signed several treaties affecting their lands in Michigan dating back as far as 1795. These lands in the Muskegon area are sacred to the Grand River Bands. It's where they lived, hunted and survived for centuries -- and it's where their ancestors are buried today. In fact, I am aware they have a cemetery in this area that they still maintain today.

My own Tribe serves as a reminder of the injustices the federal government has afflicted on Indian people. For centuries, the Muscogee Creek people lived in the southeastern part of the United States. In the 1830's over 14,000 of my ancestors were forcibly removed from their homelands in what is known as "The Trail of Tears." Thousands of Indian people lost their lives in this incredibly cruel and unjust action to move Indian people westward. And it is not lost on me that the person who willingly

supported and implemented this horrific “Trail of Tears” – was none other than our State’s first Governor Lewis Cass. This dark stain on our country’s soul will never be washed away.

Again, I would respectfully request you support the efforts of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians for federal recognition and protect their ancestral homelands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Adam Hollier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Senator Adam Hollier