

08/08/2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C., 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I would like to express my full support for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' petition for federal recognition, and to urge the Department of the Interior to approve this request with haste.

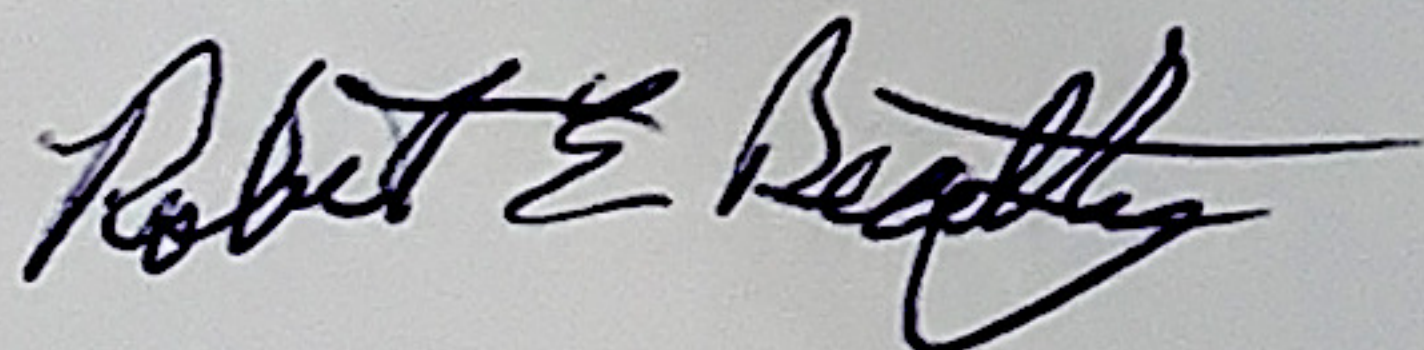
The Grand River Bands tribe was in the final stages of receiving federal recognition before the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the process. In addition, their petition has been on the Department of the Interior's "active consideration list" since 2013. The federal government must not make these people wait any longer.

It is important that the Grand River Bands receive federal recognition soon so that they may have access to resources only granted to federally recognized tribes. These resources include tuition, healthcare, and housing assistance, and until the request is approved they are not available to members of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians.

The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians have lived in Western Michigan for centuries and have shaped its history and culture. The federal government has agreements with the tribe that date back as early as 1795. It is clear that they deserve federal recognition without any further delay.

I urge you to immediately approve the petition and grant the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians the federal recognition that they rightfully deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.



Robert Beatty
Twin Lake, MI
Muskegon County