

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 345

Rep. Mueller offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the United States Department of the  
2 Interior to approve the petition of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa  
3 Indians for federal acknowledgment.

4           Whereas, The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (GRBOI) are  
5 signatories to numerous treaties with the United States Federal  
6 Government. They are the political successor-in-interest of the  
7 Grand River Ottawa people that first established a sovereign-to-  
8 sovereign relationship with the United States via the 1795 Treaty  
9 of Greenville, followed by the 1807 Treaty of Detroit, 1821 Treaty  
10 of Chicago, and 1836 Treaty of Washington. This relationship was  
11 further strengthened by the Treaty of Detroit (1855) with a  
12 specific reservation set aside for GRBOI located in western  
13 Michigan, including areas north of the Grand River in and around

1 Muskegon and Grand Rapids (see Article VI of the Treaty of Detroit  
2 (1855)); and

3       Whereas, Such a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship is  
4 consistent with the legal history of other successor-in-interest  
5 Michigan treaty tribes (see *Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa &*  
6 *Chippewa Indians v United States Attorney for the Western District*  
7 *of Michigan*, 46 F. Supp. 2d 689 (1999)), including an award from  
8 the Indian Claims Commission (Docket 40-k) on March 27, 1968; and

9       Whereas, The State of Michigan previously recognized GRBOI, in  
10 1996, as a historic Indian tribe that continues to exist as a  
11 tribal entity; and

12       Whereas, In 1997, the United States Congress, even though  
13 GRBOI was not yet formally acknowledged at the time, enacted the  
14 Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 105-143), which  
15 included provisions that were intended to distribute land claims  
16 settlement funds to GRBOI in anticipation of their recognition; and

17       Whereas, GRBOI filed a petition (Petition #146) for federal  
18 acknowledgment with the United States Department of the Interior,  
19 Office of Federal Acknowledgment in 1994. That petition is still  
20 pending a decision from the Office of Federal Acknowledgement;

21       Whereas, The petition has faced undue delay and the members of  
22 the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians have suffered significantly  
23 - losing opportunities to support their members with housing,  
24 health care, public safety, and education; now, therefore, be it

25       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
26 Department of the Interior to approve the petition of the Grand  
27 River Bands of Ottawa Indians for federal acknowledgment in an  
28 expeditious manner; and be it further

29       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

1 Governor and the United States Secretary of the Interior.