

**From the Desk of  
Robert J. Macomber**

August 8, 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 appreciate you taking the time to review this letter concerning Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' petition for federal recognition and I urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to approve the tribe's request as soon as possible.

Grand River Bands' has been working on this petition for decades and federal recognition is long overdue. While I understand that the process was delayed due to COVID, now is the time to quickly move forward in the final steps of approval.

Grand River Bands' members deserve access to the resources that are only afforded to federally recognized tribes, such as tuition, health care and housing assistance. Their members have been unjustly and unfairly deprived of these benefits for far too long due to the tribe's lack of recognition.

I ask that you do not delay federal recognition any longer. The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians is a valuable part of the community, with deep roots and an amazing history in West Michigan.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Macomber  
Chief Deputy County Clerk  
Kent County, Michigan