



# Grand Rapids Historical Society

EXPLORING LOCAL HISTORY TOGETHER

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February 9, 2023

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The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
United States Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I am writing on behalf of the Grand Rapids Historical Society Board of Trustees. We would like to express our support for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' petition of federal recognition and urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to approve the Tribe's request without delay. This recognition would allow this group of Native Peoples to access key resources such as tuition, health care and housing assistance. The Grand River Bands members have deep roots in West Michigan. Members are active in keeping their history alive by educating their community and the community as a whole, which aligns with the mission of the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Bivins, President  
On behalf of the Grand Rapids Historical Society Board of Trustees.

## Grand Rapids Historical Society

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