

September 14, 2025

Senator Gary Peters
Hart Senate Office Building Ste. 724
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Elissa Slotkin
291 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: “Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025, S-5227”

Dear Sens. Peters and Slotkin,

On behalf of Grand Rapids Friends Meeting (Quakers), we wish to thank you for your efforts in support of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians. The legislation referenced above will reaffirm their federal recognition, which is much deserved and long overdue.

Congresswoman Scholten and Congressman James introduced a companion bill in the House, HR 3255, with bi-partisan colleagues from the Michigan congressional delegation.

We support the sovereignty of this tribal people and their ties to sacred lands in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo Counties. The long delay of recognition has had serious consequences for the tribe, who continue to be denied their rights to crucial health care, housing, education and more.

The Grand River Bands has a long and storied history in Michigan. Between 1795 and 1855, Grand River Bands chiefs signed five separate treaties reaffirming the Tribe’s Constitutional sovereignty and the homelands of its people. The Grand River Bands is the last treaty tribe east of the Mississippi River without federal recognition even though its history in southwestern Michigan has been widely documented. A legislative remedy is the only way to right this wrong.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation. Please let us know how we can continue to be of support.

Sincerely,

Grand Rapids Friends Meeting, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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cc. Ron Yob, Chairman, Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians, ron_yob@yahoo.com

Patrick Meyers, StrategyWorks, patrickdavidmeyers@gmail.com