



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

Dear Senators Peters and Slotkin:

On behalf of Clean Water Action Michigan, I write in support of S. 2160, the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians Restoration Act of 2025. Thank you for introducing this important legislation to reaffirm federal recognition for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians. We also appreciate the bipartisan House effort led by Congresswoman Hillary Scholten and Congressman John James through H.R. 3255.

Clean Water Action Michigan works to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan's waters while advancing healthy communities, environmental justice, and meaningful public participation. The Grand River Bands has maintained a deep cultural, historical, and spiritual connection to the lands and waters of West Michigan for generations. Between 1795 and 1855, tribal leaders signed five treaties reaffirming the Tribe's sovereignty and homelands, yet the Grand River Bands remains the last treaty tribe east of the Mississippi River without federal recognition.

The Tribe began the federal recognition process in 1994 and completed its petition in 2000. More than two decades later, the process remains unresolved. During this delay, tribal members have been denied access to essential resources for housing, education, elder care, social services, and the protection and exercise of treaty rights.

Federal recognition would also strengthen the Tribe's ability to participate in decisions affecting natural resources, water quality, land use, and the health of communities throughout West Michigan. Tribal governments bring important knowledge, experience, and long-term stewardship perspectives to the protection of our shared environment.

Recognizing the Grand River Bands is both a matter of historical justice and an important step toward ensuring the Tribe has the resources and authority needed to protect its people, culture, lands, and waters.

We respectfully urge Congress to pass S. 2160 without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJ Woodcock".

Michigan Director, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

