

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

**DECLARATION 051917-01**

**Statement of Concern regarding Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative  
for FY 2018**

*A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. One or more Tribal Councilors may sign onto a Declaration as individual Councilors, along with the Tribal Chair. A Declaration shall not obligate or commit the Tribe in any manner. Declarations do not require formal action by the Tribal Council.*

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance; and

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621); and

In accordance with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Constitution:

*“ IN THE WAYS OF OUR ANCESTORS, to perpetuate our way of life for future generations, we the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, called in our own language the WAGANAKISING ODAWAK, a sovereign, self-governing people who follow the Anishinaabe Traditions, Heritage, and Cultural Values, set forth within this Constitution the foundation of our governance.*

*We will work together in a constructive, cooperative spirit to preserve and protect our lands resources and Treaty Rights, ... In keeping faith with our Ancestors, we shall preserve our Heritage while adapting to the present world around us...” and*

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Government and staff have been active in work to protect the environment for both our present citizens and coming generations through approval and implementation of a body of tribal laws and regulations; and

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was based on a plan laid out by the George W. Bush administration, and launched in 2010 to fund thousands of projects countering habitat destruction, polluted runoff, invasive species and other urgent threats. On March 16, 2017, the Trump administration released its "America First" budget blueprint recommending the elimination of GLRI funding.

Since the Great Lakes Restoration initiative was launched in 2010, GLRI funds have been used to support over 3,000 restoration projects to improve water quality, protect and restore native habitat, clean up environmentally-impaired Areas of Concern, fight invasive species, and prevent beach closings.

The Tribe is concerned that the potential loss of funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for FY 2018 will have a devastating impact on the great lakes that will impact the resources and treaty rights of the Tribe.

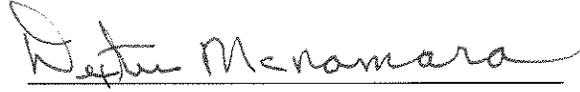
The undersigned Tribal Councilors and Chair declare that they understand the sacred relationship between the Tribes the lands and waters of their Ancestors and are concerned of the potential devastating effects of the loss of funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for FY 2018.

A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.

Signed on this date: May 19, 2017



Emily Proctor, Tribal Councilor



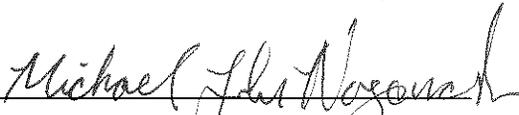
Dexter McNamara, Tribal Councilor



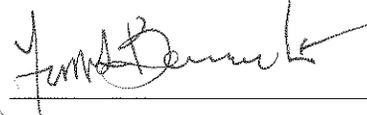
Beatrice Law, Tribal Councilor



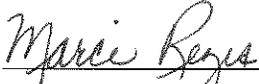
David Harrington, Tribal Councilor



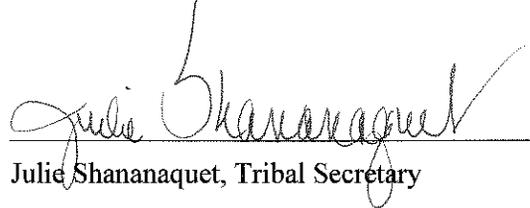
Mike Naganashe, Tribal Councilor



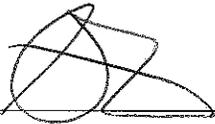
Frank Bernard, Tribal Councilor



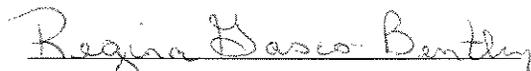
Marcie Reyes, Tribal Treasurer



Julie Shananaquet, Tribal Secretary



Aaron Otto, Legislative Leader



Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Chair