

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE

HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

DECLARATION 082210-002

In Opposition to the Proposed FY 2012
Reductions for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget

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. A Declaration shall not obligate or commit the Tribal Council 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 appreciate the support that has been shown by the Obama Administration toward the Tribes and all of Indian Country along with the committed resources to tribal self-determination and self-governance. However, tribes are still recovering from unconscionable budgets and funding levels that failed to meet basic human needs for health, education, housing, economic development, and public safety that has caused Tribal community to lag behind the average for the rest of the United States.

Although, we understand that this disparity was beginning to be addressed in FY 2010 budget proposal. However, the increases came after years of neglect toward the federal tribal trust responsibility.

If the proposed reductions are enacted, it would eliminate the much needed gains made in FY 2010 for BIA and undermine the President's genuine commitment to tribes. The proposed FY 2012 reductions for BIA would represent one of the largest cuts to Indian Affairs ever proposed. We are requesting and standing in opposition to the proposed cuts to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funding for FY 2012.

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

Signed on this date: Aug 22, 2010

Marvin P. Mulholland, Tribal Councilor

Melvin L. Kiogima, Tribal Councilor

Belinda Bardwell, Tribal Councilor

Rita Shananaquet, Tribal Councilor

Gerald V. Chingwa, Tribal Councilor

Aaron Otto, Tribal Councilor

John Bott, Tribal Treasurer

Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Secretary

Julie Shananaquet, Legislative Leader