

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 246

Reps. LaGrand, Hood, Hope, Ellison, Sneller, Cherry, Sowerby, Clemente and Brabec offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States Department of the
2 Interior to approve the petition of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa
3 Indians for federal acknowledgment.

4 Whereas, The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (GRBOI), are
5 the political successor-in-interest of the Grand River Ottawa
6 people that first established a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship
7 with the United States via the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat
8 491) and as further strengthened by the Treaty of Detroit (1855)
9 with a specific reservation set aside for GRBOI located in western
10 Michigan, including areas north of the Grand River in and around
11 Muskegon and Grand Rapids (see Article VI of the Treaty of Detroit
12 (1855)); and

1 Whereas, Such sovereign-to-sovereign relationship is
2 consistent with the legal history of other successor-in-interest
3 Michigan treaty tribes (see *Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa &*
4 *Chippewa Indians v United States Attorney for the Western District*
5 *of Michigan*, 46 F. Supp. 2d 689 (1999)), including an award from
6 the Indian Claims Commission (Docket 40-k) on March 27, 1968; and

7 Whereas, The State of Michigan previously recognized GRBOI, in
8 1996, as a historic Indian tribe that continues to exist as a
9 tribal entity; and

10 Whereas, In 1997, U.S. Congress, even though GRBOI was not yet
11 formally acknowledged at the time, enacted the Michigan Indian Land
12 Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 105-143) and as part of the law enacted
13 provisions that were intended to distribute land claims settlement
14 funds to GRBOI in anticipation of their recognition; and

15 Whereas GRBOI filed a petition (Petition #146) for federal
16 acknowledgement with the United States Department of the Interior,
17 Office of Federal Acknowledgement, that is currently pending a
18 decision from the Office of Federal Acknowledgement; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
21 Department of the Interior to approve the petition of the Grand
22 River Bands of Ottawa Indians for federal acknowledgement; and be
23 it further

24 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
25 Governor and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.