

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.151

Senators Huizenga, Hollier, Johnson, Victory, Brinks, Chang, Ananich, Outman, MacDonald, Irwin, VanderWall and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

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

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 in a series of treaties: the 1795 Treaty of
8 Greenville, the 1807 Treaty of Detroit, the 1821 Treaty of Chicago,
9 and the 1836 Treaty of Washington. This relationship was further
10 strengthened by the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, which recognized the
11 ancestral homelands of the GRBOI people located in western

1 Michigan, including areas north of the Grand River in and around
2 Muskegon and Grand Rapids; and

3 Whereas, The GRBOI have a well-defined social community in
4 western Michigan, connected by extensive kinship since first
5 sustained contact with Europeans. The GRBOI maintained significant
6 marriage rates between members of the GRBOI, over 50 percent, until
7 the 1920s and with members of other closely related tribes from
8 Michigan into the late 1930s; and

9 Whereas, The members of the GRBOI share long-standing social
10 activities involving most of the GRBOI through powwows, Kateri
11 Circles, spring and fall celebrations, and Ghost Suppers. These
12 activities are rooted firmly in the historical tradition and
13 circumstances of social interaction and political activity among
14 Anishinaabek communities in Michigan, particularly urban tribes
15 like the GRBOI; and

16 Whereas, The GRBOI have provided important social welfare
17 programs for its members and other urban tribes in southern
18 Michigan. These programs involve significant interaction and
19 support from and to several federally recognized tribes in the
20 area. These tribal interactions provide significant evidence of the
21 maintenance of both community and politics for the GRBOI; and

22 Whereas, The GRBOI has been seeking federal recognition for
23 three decades. The GRBOI's request has been on the "active
24 consideration" list since 2013. Without federal recognition,
25 members are denied their rights to healthcare, housing, and
26 education assistance, among others, through resources that are
27 provided only to federally recognized tribes; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States
29 Department of Interior to approve the petition of the Grand River

1 Bands of Ottawa Indians for federal acknowledgement; and be it
2 further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 Governor, the United States Secretary of the Interior, and the
5 Director of the United States Office of Federal Acknowledgement.