

# **LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

## **DECLARATION 110710-01**

### **Statement in Opposition to the Bay Mills Casino at Vanderbilt, Michigan**

*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

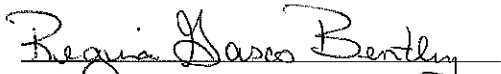
The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat.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

The position of the Tribe Councilors is that the action by Bay Mills Indian Community is illegal for several reasons, including failure to abide by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, NIGC Regulations, and other federal laws. We have sent a letter to the NIGC along with four other Tribes, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Pottawatomis Indians, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, requesting the NIGC take prompt action to address these illegal activities including the immediate issuance of an order closing the facility.

The Tribal Councilors have concerns about the potential public's confidence in the integrity and regulation of lawful Indian gaming by federally-recognized Indian tribes will be lost. Additionally, permitting the Facility to remain operational creates a risk of similar illegal off-reservation gaming in our state and nationally. This could lead to an unfortunate backlash against legitimate Indian gaming facilities.

Additionally, pursuant to the 2003 settlement agreement made between Bay Mills Indian Community and the State of Michigan regarding land claims, the agreement required that LTBB approve any gaming that was to be conducted in Vanderbilt, Michigan. LTBB has not approved or agreed to the Bay Mills Vanderbilt casino. The opening of this casino is in violation of that agreement.

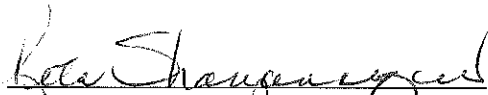
The undersigned Tribal Councilors declare that they are aware of the illegal casino being operated in Vanderbilt by Bay Mills Indian Community and condemn its illegal operations.

  
Tribal Councilor REGINA GASCO BENTLEY

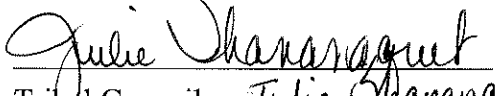
Date: 11-7-10

  
Tribal Councilor AARON OTTO


Date: 11-7-10

  
Tribal Councilor RITA SHANANAQUET

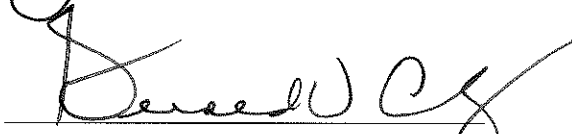
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Tribal Councilor JULIE SHANANAQUET

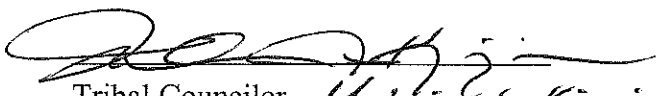
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Tribal Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 11-7-10

  
Tribal Councilor GERALD V. CHINGWA


Date: 11/7/10

  
Tribal Councilor MALVIN L. KIOQIMA

Date: 11/7/10

  
Tribal Councilor Belinda Bardwell

Date: 11-7-10

  
Tribal Councilor MARVIN MCHOLLAN

Date: 11-7-10

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