

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**  
**7500 Odawa Circle**  
**Harbor Springs, MI 49740**

**DECLARATION 100911-01**

**LTBB Support for Change and Clarification of CORA Funds Distribution**

*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 (LTBB) 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 LTBB Constitution, Preamble states that LTBB has a duty to protect and nurture our natural resources and treaty rights; *“We will work together in a constructive, cooperative spirit to preserve and protect our lands, resources and Treaty Rights. . .”*

There are no resources more vital to the continued existence and integrity of LTBB than our lands, resources, and Treaty Rights;

LTBB is a party to the historic *United States v. Michigan* case, which was initiated in 1973 by the United States in its trustee capacity for the 1836 Treaty Tribes, in order to ensure the continued exercise of treaty-reserved fishing, hunting, and gathering rights derived from Article 13 of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491). To promote the wise use and protection of the natural resources subject to Article 13 rights, the five federally recognized Treaty signatory *United States v Michigan* party tribes, including LTBB, chartered the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). The 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree expressly references CORA

functions with regard to management of inter-Tribal Great Lakes resources, and CORA also provides an inter-Tribal forum to aid in the management of inland resources;

The United States has an obligation and responsibility to fulfill the promises made through Treaties and the *United States v Michigan* litigation. The ability of the Tribes to fully protect and exercise their Treaty Rights is dependent on Federal support through the appropriation and proper authorization of funds. These resources are essential for the Tribe to continue to meet the obligations mandated by the Consent Decrees, that include providing for long-term sustainable use of the resources for the next seven generations, maintaining management capability in several core areas: Conservation Enforcement, Biological monitoring and assessment, Tribal Court, and Administration;

To date, the Federal government has appropriated no addition funds to aid in the substantial duties and obligations of the Tribe mandated under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree;

LTBB believes that additional funds are essential to equitably distribute resources among the 1836 Treaty Tribes and carry on the additional responsibilities of the 2007 Inland Consent Decree;

LTBB is asking that the authorization language contained within the President's 2013 Budget and Justification be updated to reflect the new inland responsibilities and to clarify the Tribes as the recipients of these funds.

**Signed on this date: October 09, 2011**

William A. Denemy, Tribal Councilor

Melvin L. Kiogima, Tribal Councilor

Belinda Bardwell, Tribal Councilor

Kevin A. Gasco, Tribal Councilor

Gerald V. Chingwa, Tribal Councilor

Aaron Otto, Tribal Councilor

John Bott, Tribal Treasurer

Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Secretary

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