

**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS**

7500 ODAWA CIRCLE  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

**DECLARATION**

**Statement condemning the domestic terrorism at the U.S. Capitol that undermines  
Democracy in the United States of America**

*A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. Declarations shall be approved by Tribal Council motion.*

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 will work together in a constructive, cooperative spirit to preserve and protect our lands resources and Treaty Rights, ... In keeping faith with our Ancestors, we shall preserve our Heritage while adapting to the present world around us... ” and*

As elected officials, we condemn the domestic terrorism which occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. This act of terrorism undermined the will of the people through a fair and legitimate election and attacked the Democracy of the United States of America.

As Odawak people, we recognize the importance of voting in elections. Our right to vote in federal elections came with the Snyder Act of 1924 that admitted Native Americans born in the United States to full U.S. citizenship. Such terroristic acts that occurred at the U.S. Capitol was a direct act of violence against our ability to have our voices heard through the legitimate participation in Presidential elections.

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribe strongly condemns the insurrection, violent, and deadly attack upon the U.S. Capitol and the members of Congress. No tolerance should be given to the insurrectionists and the hatred and lies that motivate them. We condemn these violent acts against the United States as sedition, domestic terrorism, and all the actors as traitors—democracy depends on it. The last time our country was thrust into civil war, the Waganakising Odawak stood in solidarity with marginalized peoples. We served on the side of the Union through Company K, Michigan Sharp Shooters, better known as the Odawa Sharp Shooters. LTBB has had a long legacy of defending the United States of America and its freedoms as exemplified by the Odawa men and women whom have served in various branches of the military at a rate that far exceeds our percentage of population. No matter the conflict, our Ogitchidaa have risked their lives for the United States, this same government that had once tried to eradicate our way of life.

The undersigned Tribal Councilors and Tribal Chairperson condemn the domestic terrorism at the United States Capitol that undermined Democracy in the United States of America, jeopardizing the sacredness of legitimate elections, the right to vote and the promise of a government ruled by the people, “a democracy”. A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office.

**Motion approved by Tribal Council on January 14 2021, by:**

Emily Proctor, Legislative Leader  
Marcella Reyes, Treasurer  
Tamara Kiogima, Tribal Councilor  
Melissa Pamp, Tribal Councilor  
Marty Van De Car, Tribal Councilor

Julie Shananaquet, Secretary  
Fred Harrington, Jr., Tribal Councilor  
Fred Kiogima, Tribal Councilor  
Leroy Shomin, Tribal Councilor  
Regina Gasco Bentley, Tribal Chairperson

