



## *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government  
Office of the Chief Executive*

*Transmittal via e-mail to OCIA.TAO@census.gov*

Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

February 5, 2025

Robert L. Santos, Director, Census Bureau  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement in the American Community Survey

Dear Director Santos:

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (the "Band") is a Federally recognized Tribe located primarily in east-central Minnesota with more than 5,000 enrolled Band members. We have a 61,000-acre Reservation established under the 1855 Treaty of Washington (10 Stat. 1165) and exercise governmental jurisdiction over lands in Aitkin, Crow Wing, Dakota, Kanabec, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Pine County. We exercise our treaty-protected reserved rights in the 1837 Treaty of St. Peters (7 Stat. 536) and 1842 Treaty of La Pointe (7 Stat. 591) treaty-ceded territories spanning from east-central Minnesota, across northern Wisconsin, and into western portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, including the portions of Lake Superior in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. We have nine statutorily defined communities, of which two are on our reservation, and the other seven are scattered across east-central Minnesota. The Band thanks the United States Census Bureau (the "Bureau") for this opportunity to provide comments regarding the Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement in the American Community Survey and eventual use of this Coding in the 2030 Census.

We, the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, were formed from our ancestral Chippewa (Ojibwe) Bands in east-central Minnesota in 1936: the non-removable Mille Lacs Chippewa Indians, the non-removable Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa Indians, the Rice Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa Indians, and the Kettle River and the Snake River Bands of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, together with other scattered Bands in our region. Also in 1936, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe came together with other Ojibwe Bands in Minnesota to form the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, a centralized cooperative governance system to facilitate transactional transparency of services among its member Bands.

**Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to U.S. Census Bureau**  
**Re: Race/Ethnicity Coding Improvement in the American Community Survey**  
**February 5, 2025**  
**Page 2 of 2**

In reviewing the proposed 2030 Census race/ethnicity code list, under the banner of “5663 Mille Lacs Band,” we noticed that it appears we are missing the following historical aliases: “5663 Kettle River Band” and “5663 Snake River Band.” With the addition of these two historical aliases, our listing of our present and past aliases will be complete.

The Band hopes that our comments will aid the Bureau in improving the Race/Ethnicity Coding in the American Community Survey and the use of this improved Coding to the 2030 Census. Should you have further questions, please contact Commissioner Kelly Applegate by e-mail at [kelly.applegate@millelacsband.com](mailto:kelly.applegate@millelacsband.com).

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

CC:

Dee A. Alexander, Intergovernmental Tribal Affairs Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau  
Darcie BigBear, Commissioner of Administration, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe