



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

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

Transmittal via e-mail to info@udall.gov

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

April 3, 2025

Gwendolyn Franks, General Counsel
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation
434 East University Boulevard, Suite 300,
Tucson, AZ 85705

Re: Udall Foundation Policy

Dear General Counsel Franks:

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 Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation (the “Udall Foundation”) for this opportunity to provide comments regarding the Udall Foundation’s policy on determining who would qualify to receive services. We also appreciate the opportunity the Udall Foundation provided on December 6, 2024, for a virtual consultation with the Band.

Regarding the proposed policy language “Enrolled members of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes that are included in the annual list of Indian Tribes published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5131”, the Band fully supports the Udall Foundation’s policy around this language to provide services to members of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, which is a cornerstone of the Udall Foundation’s mission for service, and is the current policy driving the set of services the Udall Foundation offers to members of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.

Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to the Udall Foundation

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The Band hopes that our comments will aid the Udall Foundation in improving the services you provide through clear and concise policy. Should you have further questions, please contact Commissioner of Education Raina Killspotted by e-mail at **Raina.Killspotted@MilleLacsBand.com**.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

CC:

Raina Killspotted, Commissioner of Education, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Susan Klapel, Executive Director, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR
Letitia Weiss, Principal, Nay Ah Shing Schools