



MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
Executive Branch of Tribal Government

RESOLUTION 06-02-133-94

A RESOLUTION IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO CHANGES TO OMB DIRECTIVE 15.

WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Reservation Band Assembly is the duly elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and,

WHEREAS, OMB Statistical Policy Directive 15, "Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting", is the mechanism utilized by federal agencies to document the population of the United States by federal agencies, including the U.S. Census Bureau, and;

WHEREAS, OMB Statistical Policy Directive 15 currently includes four broad categories for the American population, including a separate category for "American Indian or Alaskan Native" people, and;

WHEREAS, the Band Assembly of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians is gravely concerned with OMB's proposed changes to Directive 15, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to directive 15 would result in skewed data which minimizes the federal political relationship which Indian Tribal governments have with the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed changes would cause great damage to American Indian and Alaskan Native data and must be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly hereby opposes the proposed changes to Directive 15 for the following reasons:

(1) "Native Hawaiians" must not be categorized together with American Indians and Alaska Natives. Native Hawaiians have their own unique relationship with the United States but it is one which cannot be compared with that of Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives. Further, the trust responsibility which the United States has toward Indian people and tribes does not extend to Native Hawaiians, and therefore Native Hawaiians are not eligible for the majority of programs and services available to Indian and Alaska Native people.

(2) The category of "American Indian and Alaskan Native" must not be changed to "Native American", which is a term that many non-Indians believe to be "politically correct" but one which has no legal or political meaning reflective of our unique government-to-government relationship with the United States.

(3) The proposed "multi-racial" category will negatively impact the count of American Indian and Alaska Native people. There are very few full-blooded American Indian people left in the United States; the great majority of our People have at least some non-Indian ancestry. Besides negatively impacting the American Indian count by removing Indian people from the Indian category and putting them in the "multi-racial" category, this category ignores the fact that being Indian is a political affiliation with an Indian tribe that has nothing to do with mixed blood. Indian people are enrolled with their tribes based on the criteria established by the tribes, which vary across the United States.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly urges the Office of Management and Budget to consider changes that would be beneficial, rather than harmful, to American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes, such as the following:

(1) The Band Assembly urges the Office of Management and budget to change our category to "Federally Recognized American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes" to ensure that federal data only reflects those to whom the United States has a federal trust responsibility.

(2) The Band Assembly urges the Office of Management and budget to include space for all American Indian and Alaskan Native Individuals to report their tribal membership with a federally recognized American Indian tribe. "Indian-ness" is not a matter of self-identification, as many new-age people contend, but is is rather a matter of enrollment with a tribe which proves that the Indian person has in fact met the criteria for tribal membership.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Administrative Policy Board hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Chief Executive to be affixed to this resolution and forwarded to the Band Assembly for Concurrence.



Marge Anderson, Chief Executive

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a regular session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present held on the 17th day of August, 1994 at Vineland, Minnesota by a vote of 3 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN CONCURRENCE, with the action of the Chief Executive, we, the Band Assembly hereunto cause to have set the hand of the Speaker of Assembly to this resolution.



David Matrious, Speaker of Assembly

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND