



**MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**  
*Executive Branch of Tribal Government*

RESOLUTION 06-03-109-95

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING TO THE ELIMINATION OF FUNDING FOR GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION.**

- 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,** the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is a signatory or successor to the Treaty(ies) of 1837, 1842 and, pursuant to that/those treaty(ies), retains hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the territories ceded to the United States; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is a member of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (hereinafter GLIFWC), an intertribal organization exercising delegated authority from its member tribes; and,
- WHEREAS,** since time immemorial, GLIFWC member tribes have relied upon fish, wildlife and plants for religious, ceremonial, medicinal, subsistence and economic purposes; and,
- WHEREAS,** the conservation and harvest of these natural resources have always been a necessary and integral part of tribal culture and sovereignty; and,
- WHEREAS,** GLIFWC's member tribes are committed to natural resource management programs that sustain Mother Earth's bounty for present and future generations; and,
- WHEREAS,** GLIFWC's member tribes' hunting, fishing and gathering rights have been reaffirmed by various federal court decisions and, in accordance with the mandates of those decisions, have established effective systems of tribal self-regulation for the purposes of conserving and sustaining natural resources, and preventing regulation by the state; and,
- WHEREAS,** GLIFWC's member tribes have chosen GLIFWC as an essential part of the tribal self-regulatory system; and,
- WHEREAS,** GLIFWC promotes and protects tribal sovereignty by enabling its member tribes to effectively regulate themselves in the exercise of treaty-retained hunting, fishing and gathering rights; and,
- WHEREAS,** GLIFWC assists its member tribes in serving as partners and co-managers of the natural resources of the ceded territory with other Tribes, States, the United States, and Canada; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has learned of recent proposals within the Bureau of Indian Affairs that would eliminate Fiscal Year 96 funding for intertribal agencies such as GLIFWC as well as for other tribal natural resource management programs, and that these proposals were developed without consultation with affected Tribes; and,

WHEREAS, if implemented, any such proposal would abrogate the federal trust responsibility in the area of treaty retained hunting, fishing and gathering rights, would expose GLIFWC's member tribes to the risk of falling outside the protection of existing federal court decisions and orders and exposing tribal members to regulation by the State, and would impose a disproportionate share of funding reductions on a few, specific programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe recognizes that tribal natural resource management programs are essential to the preservation of tribal culture, society and economy, and to the conservation of ceded territory natural resources for present and future generations; and,


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe does hereby officially and vehemently oppose the elimination of any or all funding for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and would consider such action a breach of Trust responsibility by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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.

  
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Marge Anderson, Chief Executive

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a special session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present held on the 7th day of June, 1995 at Vineland, Minnesota by a vote of 2 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

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

  
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David G. Matrious, Speaker of Assembly

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND