



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF  
**OJIBWE INDIANS**

*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

**JOINT-RESOLUTION 10-01-47-02**

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE 3 FOR THE  
TRUNK HIGHWAY (TH) 169 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly is the duly-elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a federally-recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has many interests at stake in any alternative choice for TH 169; and
- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band is the largest community affected by the TH 169 Improvement Project; and
- WHEREAS, the Band Government conducted public hearings regarding the TH 169 Improvement Project and the community stated the following concerns in recommending an Alternative for TH 169: 1) Currently, TH 169 bisects our community, which causes grave danger to pedestrians; 2) Mille Lacs Lake and the land surrounding the Lake is where we have lived, worked, and played for time immemorial and is our primary treaty resource, which demands protection; 3) TH 169 cannot endanger our cultural and archaeological sites; 4) our trust, allotted, and fee owned land must be preserved and enhanced; 5) the quality of our water our air cannot be impaired, but must be enhanced; and 6) any alternative must enhance Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the region's economic engine; and
- WHEREAS, Band studies and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) EIS show that each alternative for TH 169 has different impacts on our community; and
- WHEREAS, an expansion of TH 169 in its present location will cause increased public safety concerns for pedestrians and residents in our community, serious air quality problems, will supply greater quantities of non-point water pollutants, such as salt and hydrocarbons, into Mille Lacs Lake contributing to an impairment of the Lake for all users Indian and non-Indian alike, and will cause a significant loss of the Band's trust, allotted, and fee lands; and
- WHEREAS, TH 169 alternatives 2 and 2A will damage the Kathio Historic Landmark, threaten significant archaeological and cultural sites, cause a significant loss of the Band's trust, allotted, and fee lands, and will cause negative impacts to our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights which are protected by the treaties of 1837 and 1842; and

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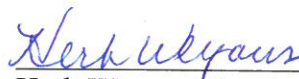
WHEREAS, TH 169 Alternative 3 will significantly reduce the length of roadway that runs along the western shore of Mille Lacs Lake and thereby reduce the negative externalities of TH 169 expansion in its present location, and alternatives 2 and 2A, while alleviating harm to pedestrians, bypassing our cultural and archaeological sites, preserving our lands and treaty resources, yet still allowing relatively good access to Grand Casino Mille Lacs and area businesses; and

WHEREAS, TH 169 alternatives 4 and 5 will bypass our community and reduce the negative externalities of highway expansion in its present location and alternatives 2 and 2A, but will negatively impact our ability to exercise our rights under the treaties of 1837 and 1842, will cause significant loss and degradation to important wetland habitats, and will potentially cause severe negative economic impacts for the entire region by limiting access to Grand Casino Mille Lacs and area businesses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly hereby recommends that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) select Alternative 3 for the TH 169 Improvement Project.

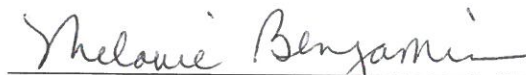
WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a regular session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present held on the 28th day of March, 2002 at Mille Lacs, Minnesota by a vote of 3 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

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



Herb Weyaus, Speaker of the Assembly

IN CONCURRENCE, with the action of the Speaker of the Assembly, I, the Chief Executive have set my hand to this resolution.

  
Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

**OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND**