



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE INDIANS

Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Resolution 11-03-73-05

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE, CULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE, TO PROTECT THE BAND'S FUTURE GENERATIONS FROM THE UNAUTHORIZED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED ON WILD RICE, AND TO REDUCE THE ADVERSE AFFECT OF THE RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE'S CEDED TERRITORY

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

WHEREAS the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has the inherent sovereign authority to regulate the conduct and activities dealing with our natural resources, including but not limited to Wild Rice, on all lands under the jurisdiction of the Mille Lacs Band, and as expressly established in the constitution of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, to promulgate, adopt and enact laws for the control and regulation of Band Statutes on all lands and resources within the jurisdiction of the Band, and to protect the health, economic security, and general welfare of the Band, and

WHEREAS Wild Rice provides a basis for the tribal economy, and provides an irreplaceable food source and cultural vitality based on religious and cultural traditions premised on the sacredness of this land and its resources, and

WHEREAS the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reserves the right, through its inherent sovereign authority and police power, to exclude individuals from the reservation and to deny permission or access for any genetically altering research activities; and

WHEREAS the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reserves the right to ensure that researchers recognize Tribal control of research activities and that the Tribe owns all data and information generated through and produced by such research, and

WHEREAS the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe supports an immediate moratorium on the patenting, research and/or collection of Wild Rice plants or genetic materials from the plants, by any scientific project, university, State or Federal Government, independent agencies or individual researchers, and

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WHEREAS such research may lead to alterations of the naturally occurring genetic variants of Wild Rice, potentially permanently alter the indigenous genetic variants of the Wild Rice, its ability to propagate without scientific and corporate intrusion and any intrusion of academic and corporate interests into the ability of Tribal members to harvest and protect the naturally occurring Wild Rice, and

WHEREAS we support the United States Federal and State governments and any governing agencies that do not participate, fund or provide any assistance to the genetic research, domestication research or any related research projects which seek to exploit our sacred Wild Rice plant, and

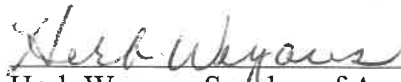
WHEREAS indigenous knowledge, cultural and biogenetic resources and intellectual property rights have continued to be damaged, destroyed, misappropriated both on and off the Reservation with virtually no benefits returning back to the community from the research, and

WHEREAS genetically engineered crops cultivated in or near regions where there are wild relative varieties, are likely to exchange their genetic material including genetically modified traits thus becoming part of the larger environment, so that the original and natural varieties in the indigenous territories can be irreversibly changed by the deliberate or accidental entrance of the genetically engineered organisms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe retains sole control and jurisdiction over Wild Rice through their initiatives to end the genetic alteration and protection of our culture, traditions, spirituality and livelihoods.

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 29th day of April 2005 at Vineland, 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.



Herb Weyaus, Speaker of Assembly

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND