



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF  
**OJIBWE INDIANS**  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

**JOINT RESOLUTION 18-01-124-18**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE TO JOIN THE NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION AND SUPPORT THE “REGAINING OUR FUTURE” REPORT AND ITS POLICY INITIATIVES AND TO LEND SUPPORT TO EFFECTIVE DELIBERATION AND SWIFT PASSAGE OF THOSE PRIORITIES SET OUT BY THE NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION**

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly (“Band Assembly”) is the duly elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”) a federally-recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 2(d), the Band Assembly is empowered to adopt resolutions to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 4 MLBSA § 2, the Chief Executive of the Band is empowered to exercise the Executive Branch powers of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive have established as a priority the improvement of spiritual, physical, mental, social and economic wellbeing of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States is preparing to deliberate the nature of agriculture policy for the nation, and the world, in the form of the 2018 Farm Bill; which will authorize all farm programs, rural development, and nutrition initiatives within the United States Department of Agriculture; and
- WHEREAS, economic development in Indian Country is tied to agriculture production, which is among the largest industries in Indian Country; providing \$3.4 billion per year, and the policies that provide the framework within which this production happens constitute a large portion of the Farm Bill; and
- WHEREAS, not only is an overwhelming majority of the land in Indian Country in agriculture production; a great many of the citizens and tribal members live in rural areas and communities where basic infrastructure costs are often prohibitively high; and the 2018 Farm Bill will provide an authorization of federal funding for rural infrastructure initiatives; and

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WHEREAS, the citizens and members of these areas are often afflicted by a poverty of place, wherein they are unable to find suitable employment to provide adequate income that supports good nutrition for their families; and thus may rely on federal nutrition programs authorized in the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the great strides made for Indian Country agriculture in previous Farm Bill negotiations; from going virtually unmentioned in the 1990s to many thoughtful provisions scattered across all Titles; the \$3.4 billion generated annually through Indian agricultural efforts is still more than 99% raw commodities, instead of the healthy, local, economically beneficial, and nutritious food needed in Indian Country communities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, an effort is underway by the Native Farm Bill Coalition, led by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community ("SMSC"), the Intertribal Agriculture Council ("IAC"), the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law ("IFAI"), and the National Congress of American Indians ("NCAI") to preserve and expand upon the gains made in the previous 30 years of Farm Bill discussions in each of the aforementioned areas; and

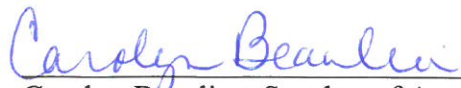
WHEREAS, this effort is the best opportunity in decades for Indian Country to effectively advocate and lobby for enactment of truly relevant and targeted legislation to ensure that federal agriculture policy seeks to enhance the development of this industry beyond raw commodities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Band Assembly and Chief Executive do hereby authorize and approve the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to join the Native Farm Bill Coalition and support the "Regaining Our Future" report and the policy initiatives generated therefrom; and

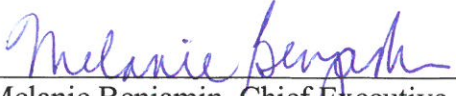
BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources will lend its support to effective deliberation and swift passage of those priorities set out by the Native Farm Bill Coalition.

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018 at Hinckley, 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.

  
Carolyn Beaulieu, Speaker of Assembly

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

  
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Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

**OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND**