



Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands)
Mackinac Tribe of Odawa and Ojibwa Indians Tribe

Political Counsel Address; Oakland County
5455 Lancaster Hill Drive #46 Clarkston, MI 48346
Director of Housing & Economic Development; Diana Adams
Phone (248) 613-3649 email; 2dianaadams@att.net

September 25, 2013

Ms. Elizabeth Appeal
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street NW., MS 4141
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Comments on proposed revisions of 25 C.F.R. Part 83, Procedures for establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe.

Dear Ms. Appeal,

Regretfully, I was unable to attend the Consultation meeting held in July of 2013 which included other representatives representing the Mackinac Tribe of Odawa and Ojibwa Indians Tribe also referred to in history as the Michilimackinac Indians from the Straits of Michilimackinac & Detroit. Later in historical recollections, the “various” Michilimackinac Indian Bands became known as the Mackinac Bands.

My name is Diana Adams; I am a direct Lineal Descent to Chief Amable Ainse of the Mackinac Bands. I am the 49th enrolled member within the Federally Recognized Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians Tribe.

In support of the proposed revisions to the procedures for establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe, I would like to express further comments involving the Mackinac Bands Tribe Members enrolled as a 2nd Tribe within the Sault Ste. Marie Michigan Tribe which; their reservation land is located in the farthest Northern portion in the Upper Peninsula in the State of Michigan. It is well noted in the 1820 Treaty the Chippewa Indians retained fishing & hunting rights on the St. Mary’s river located near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The Sault Ste Marie Band is 1 of 5 Bands within the Bay Mills Indian Community. Later in 1972, by a Memorandum of Understanding, the Sault Ste. Marie Band separated from the Bay Mills Indian Community securing federal status as a separate community Indian Tribe located in Sault Ste. Marie. Their claim to the Bureau was that Bay Mills Indians did not “extend”

programs & services to the members/residents located 30 miles away in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Therefore, the Band was re-organized as a tribe and named the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians & Their Heir's, later amended to be; the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians & Their Descendants. The Sault Tribe has 7 Service areas located within 50 mile radios of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan providing programs & services to their members who reside within the Sault Tribe's service areas.

Today, more than half the membership of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe is comprised of Lineal Descendants/Members of the 2nd tribe Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Indians. The Michilimackinac Indians from the Straits were invited by the Military Presence in 1701 to move into Detroit. Prior to the 1800's, the Michilimackinac Indians residing at Fort Detroit agreed to move from the fort as far West into Grand River and or as far North into Saginaw. The Michilimackinac Indians residing at Fort Michilimackinac (Mackinac) agreed to either move south of the fort into areas such as Cheboygan, Burt Lake, Little Traverse and Grand Traverse Bays. In the 1807 Treaty of Detroit, the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Indians were also provided the right to move north of the Straits into what is known today as St. Ignace in Mackinac County as well as to the west into areas such as Bay De Noc, Garden, Beaver & Round Island as an encampment for the Mackinac residing north of the Straits of Michilimackinac.

Many of the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) continued to reside in communities such as but not limited to Wayne, Oakland, Monroe, St. Clair, Livingston, Washtenaw, Flint, Genesee and Lapeer Counties located in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Nearly 10,000 Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Descendants/Members reside in the above communities and are excluded from any and all programs & services being administered by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Officer's because we are not Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Members residing within their Treaty Area or service center areas created for Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Members in the early 1970's.

The Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indian Tribe became a separate tribe from Bay Mills because of their claim of being discriminated against from the same programs & services as the Bay Mills Indian Community but have continue to do the exact same injury to the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members.

During the consultation, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Member, John Causley had an opportunity to ask questions for the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members but represented himself as Chairman of petitioning group #186 the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa & Ottawa Indians. In addressing a couple of Mr. Causley's remarks and or questions in determining a tribe's governing board of directors to establish that an American Group Exists as an Indian Tribe has been and still is an on-going turmoil within the various groups located in the Upper Peninsula where a small fraction of Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members reside.

Mr. Causley was Chairman of a non-profit entity named the Mackinac Bands of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians Inc., at the time in 1998 when Petition #186 was filed with the Office of Federal Acknowledgement. Prior to that petitioning group was Petitioner #64; Michael Wright filed a petition for the Michilimackinac as the Consolidated Bahweting Ojibwas Incorporated/Mackinac Tribe in 1974. Former Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe; Bernard

Boucher was Treasurer prior to being elected as Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe in 1978.

Today, Mr. John Causley is the Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe's Constitution Committee and his daughter, Lana Causley has been an elected Board of Director for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Members since as early as 2004. It is a conflict of interest for Mr. Causley to continue acting as Authorizing Representatives for the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Members. Neither of the former directors has ever compiled "All" of the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) historical documents which comprises of many more Treaty's involving the Mackinac Bands Indians as well as Land Sessions located in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan that has never been included within any of the Causley's documentation submitted in the past.

After recently reviewing documentation dated 2001 from the former petitioning #186 group claiming to be the "Authorizing" Tribal Officers for the Mackinac Bands Tribe Members, it appears John & Lana Causley had been instrumental in created a land scheme to acquire a financial gain which involved lands to Mackinac Bands Chief Osogwin; property is outlined in the 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

The Causley's representing petitioner #186; Non-Profit Organization named the Mackinac Bands of Ottawa & Chippewa Inc., were approved for ANA Grants back in 2001 to be used towards the federal recognition process back then. Emails I have recently located appear to prove evidence between the Causley's Attorney of Record and the Mackinac County Prosecuting Attorney that John & Lana Causley in fact misused the federal grant monies received while acting as Authorizing Representatives for the Mackinac Bands Tribe Members.

I am familiar with John Causley and his daughter, Lana. I do have copies of all documents pertaining to the research submitted by the Causley's when they were both working to secure federal acknowledgement for one band of the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members located in Hessel, Michigan. I have acquired copies of the former petitioning group #64 including the original membership lists of both petitioning groups.

In 2001, it would appear that the Causley's assisted in suppressing the researched historical documents they did acquire with federal grant dollars involving the Michilimackinac Indians of Michigan. Again, old emails dated in 2001 clearly state between the Causley's & the Historian; Jim Hillman how they are going to assist the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Officer's by enrolling the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe within the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe "merely" so the Sault Ste Marie Indians within Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan can gain federal grant dollars & a higher percentage of Land Claims Settlement Funds by including the membership of a 2nd Tribe within the Sault Tribe.

H.R. Bill 2495 clearly states there is a 2nd tribe of members within the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe & Their Members. It has been an intentional act to suppress the Federal Acknowledgement Process all these years preventing more than half the Membership within the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe from receiving the same programs & services.

As the 49th enrolled Member within the Sault Tribe but a Direct Lineal Descendant to Chief Amable Ainsie of the Michilimackinac Bands, I am one of 10,000 who have been discriminated against by the wrongful actions caused between Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Officers.

My Son & I were recently homeless because we could not get any type of assistance with high costs of heating and or ability to secure safe affordable housing. The State of Michigan Department of Human Services had denied assisting us with any type of state aid because we are enrolled members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe living nearly 500 miles from their reservation lands. We were told we had to move into Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in order to receive the same programs & services as Sault Tribe Members regardless that my Son & I do reside within the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Treaty Areas located in the Lower Peninsula. I reside just north of Detroit, Michigan.

Today, the Swan Creek Black River Indians living near Saginaw claim the Mackinac Bands Treaty Areas. It is also recorded in historical documentation that the Swan Creek Black River Band did make a separate Treaty with the United States for 1000 acres near the Saginaw reservation. The Treaty clearly stated the band of Indians are NOT a Party to the 1836 or 1855 Treaty's but are a party to the 1000 acres that was set aside since they were existing Indians within the area.

More than half the Sault Tribe Membership is comprised of Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members but resides in communities such as Detroit and is prevented from securing the same programs & services as the Sault Tribe receives within their community. The Michilimackinac are party to the MI Lands Claims Settlement Act but we have been struggling to secure separate federal acknowledgement away from the Upper Peninsula Sault Ste. Marie Tribe. The Mackinac Bands Tribe is a federal acknowledged tribe but without Authorizing Representatives because of the past mistakes and ill errors caused between the old process of federal recognition and the Memorandum of Understanding the Sault Tribe received without having to follow any of the steps to federal acknowledgement as achieved in 1972.

Thousands of enrolled members within the Sault Tribe (Mackinac Bands) are required to apply for State assistance through local agencies of the Department of Human Services. The Sault Tribe claims a membership of nearly 40,000 when requesting federal grant dollars or for housing needs but fails to inform the United States that more than half the tribes membership is of members from a 2nd tribe they exclude.

Not only are the Mackinac "not" in the Sault Tribe's Constitution, the Sault Tribe misuses federal dollars by counting Indian Heads for their personal financial gain within the "one" community located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Yes the Sault Tribe has a right to their treaty rights I agree but what I do not agree on is the injustice caused to the Original Michilimackinac Bands Indians of Michigan. The Mackinac Indians should not have to apply for state aid merely so one Upper Peninsula Tribe can continue to rape federal grant dollars counting the EXCLUDED Tribe Members.

The Mackinac Bands Members today can build a strong Council to network with local, State & Federal agencies to implement programs & services within the various communities located in the Lower Peninsula.

Today, the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) reaffirmation to secure federal status separate can financially help in the City of Detroit including many more local communities near Detroit. With the assistance, together the Mackinac can help rebuild the economy by utilizing Lands Claims Funds that have been set aside for the Mackinac Bands Tribe once they reaffirm federal status. The amount of resident members who could fall off the rolls of the state funded programs could be utilized for Non Native Members residing in Michigan.

It is imperative to all in the State of Michigan to change the procedures for establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe. In the case of the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) all that would be required is to continue working together with the United States departments to assist in the separation of the 2 Michigan Federally Recognized Tribes. The Sault Ste Marie Tribe is an Upper Peninsula Tribe whereas the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) is a Lower Peninsula Tribe with Members residing in numerous counties from Detroit to the Straits of Michilimackinac which is all separate Treaty Areas than the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe.

In 2008, Board of Directors from the Mackinac Bands groups have provided signed documentation elected myself as an Authorizing Political Representative for the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members. I have continued to compile research to be able to complete a petitioning process for the Mackinac Bands Members. I have attended numerous public meetings for years held in Sault Ste Marie as well as I have been actively involved in attending public meetings concerning the financial destruction the Sault Tribe Officer's caused while trying to operate Greektown Casino in Detroit.

The Sault Tribe Officers do not and have never represented the interests of the Mackinac Bands Tribe Members located in the Lower Peninsula. I do have documentation to prove evidence of Sault Tribe Officer's passing Resolutions in 2007 merely so Out Side Investors from Detroit could acquire a \$100 Million dollar loan from Merrill Lynch by using the Tribe's Identity when in fact the Tribes Members were "Excluded" in the Outside Investors Articles of Organization & prevented from receiving a revenue share of any type. It was "unconstitutional" and intentional fraudulent actions that have financial crippled the Michilimackinac Bands Members from any & all programs & services as well as crippled the City of Detroit's finances including all residents residing in Michigan.

I do not and have not ever been paid to represent the interests of the Michilimackinac (Mackinac Bands) Tribe Members; my attempts to secure federal acknowledgement is in hopes of making a difference for all in our communities and for my children and grand children and forever more as promised in the Treaty's to the Michilimackinac. We have highly experienced tribe members who would give anything to re-organize as a separate tribe created, developing & implementing the same programs & services in the Lower Peninsula as the Upper Peninsula Sault Ste Marie Tribe.

Thank you for taking the time to read the concerns & comments I have listed. Please continue to send and or forward future information on any meetings so we may have the opportunity to attend.

Sincerely,

Diana C. Adams
Michilimackinac Bands Tribe Member