

**The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “Potawatomi Band” of the Bradley H. Patterson Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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**September 13, 1976**

**Dear Mr. Mackety:**

**The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of July 21, 1976, which you personally delivered to me at our meeting August 25.**

**I have checked carefully here at the White House and find that it is the President's preference to have the Secretary go ahead with his present plan to identify and set forth standards and procedures for recognition of Indian tribes -- a plan which means that all the pending applications for recognition would be deferred for a short time longer until those standards and procedures have been clarified.**

**I have checked with Interior, and find that this work is nearing completion.**

**I think the Huron Potawatomi tribe will find these new standards reasonable and I will help ensure that you get a prompt answer to your basic inquiry.**

**It was a genuine pleasure for me to have met you and your associates and I want to keep open the doors of communication which our meetings began.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.**

**Mr. David Mackety, President**

**R.R. #1**

**Fulton, Michigan 49052**

**BHP:msp**

**EG James P. Hillman, Director**

**Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs**

**Robert J. Horn, Special Asst. to Governor Milliken**

**BC: Mr. Borgstrom, OMB**

**Les Gay, Bureau of Indian Affairs**

**Reid Chambers, Dept. of Interior, Office of the Secretary**






EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SEP 7 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BRAD PATTERSON

FROM: James L. Mitchell 

SUBJECT: Correspondence with the Huron Potawatomi Band  
on Tribal Recognition.

We agree with the general approach outlined in the draft letter you sent to my office but would recommend two changes:

- The time frame of "a few weeks" should be restated as "a short time".
- The third paragraph should read:

"I have checked with Interior and find that this work is nearing completion."



The two reasons for these changes are

- (1) We do not believe that this matter is exclusively one of legal interpretation and feel that the instrument for the statement of any new policy in this area should not be a Solicitor's Opinion, though such an opinion is obviously needed to suggest the boundaries for policy discretion.
- (2) We believe that this issue warrants full consideration not only by the Interior Department but by the White House, OMB, and HEW.

Obviously any policy initiatives in the area of recognition of additional Indian tribes could have substantial budgetary implications, hence our concern that we and other affected parties within the Executive Branch review such a set of criteria before they are issued.

Attachments



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

SEP 7 1976

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FROM: James L. Mitchell /s/ James L. Mitchell

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Attachments



**WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN**  
Governor

**ROBERT J. HORN**  
Special Assistant to the Governor

**STATE OF MICHIGAN—WASHINGTON OFFICE**  
1150 17th St., N.W., Suite 609      Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: (202) 872-8550





WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

GERALD H. MILLER, Director

**COMMISSION ON  
INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Baker Olin-West  
SE, Fl. 2  
3423 N. Logan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48914  
Phone 517/373-0654  
James R. Hillman, Director

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

John Lufkins, Chairman  
Philip Alexis, Vice-Chairman  
Doris Adams, Secretary  
Lester Gemmill  
Maurice LeBlanc  
Viola Peterson  
Kay Campos Shagonaby  
Arnold Sowmick

August 30, 1976

Mr. Brad Patterson  
Special Assistant  
Old Executive Office Building  
15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20202



Dear Mr. Patterson:

On behalf of Viola Peterson, Louise Reznik, Dave Mackety and myself, I would like to thank the President for assigning you to meet with us.

The purpose of this letter is to capsulize the important issues of the case we presented to you regarding Federal recognition of the Huron Potawatomi Band of Indians residing in Calhoun County Michigan.

In 1971 the Band first requested federal recognition and received acknowledgment from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on May 12th. In early 1972 the Tribe having not heard further on their request sent another request, this time accompanied by a resolution by the Tribe. This was also responded to by a letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1973 yet another request and resolution was sent to the BIA by the Tribe.

According to Bureau of Indian Affairs staff person at our meeting, Lester Gay, the Bureau had decided to grant federal recognition to the Tribe and was proceeding accordingly when in March of 1974 a letter from an obscure Bureau official raised questions which had long since been answered by the Tribe. The result of these questions, however, served to delay the approval of federal recognition until the Bureau was instructed to no longer recognize Indian Tribes.

During this time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, responding to pressure exerted by larger more sophisticated applicants recognized another Tribe in Michigan whose application was not as complete as the Huron-Potawatomi.

Since the Huron Potawatomi are the only part of the Potawatomi Tribe which has not been federally recognized, and since in 1934 they were not given the opportunity to vote on accepting or rejecting the Reorganization Act, this Band of Potawatomi has a legitimate claim to recognition that many tribes do not.

From the beginning to the end, the time-consuming delays being brought about by the Bureau of Indian Affairs has cost the Tribe many services which would have been otherwise available to them.



Mr. Brad Patterson  
Page 2  
August 30, 1976

At present less than 100 people live on the 120 acres of state reservation lands in Calhoun County. The estimated cost to the federal government during the first three years of recognition to assist this Tribe would be \$125,000 per year.


The state of Michigan has not provided any services to this reservation, indeed has insisted that the Federal Government has the responsibility to assist the Tribes in Michigan.

Thus, while all the delays were occurring (5 years to date) on the Huron-Potawatomi request for recognition, the Tribe was not receiving any services whatsoever.

We request that the President, in light of his previous support for recognition of this Band, will realize the unusual injustice being done here to the Huron Potawatomi and will issue an executive order to recognize the Huron Band of Potawatomi and instruct the Bureau to begin negotiations with them without delay. Thank you for all your assistance and time during our recent meeting.

Sincerely,

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

  
James R. Hillman, Director



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 26

Jim Mitchell -

I have composed this letter with the help of Reid Chambers at Interior, who says the draft opinion of the Solicitor is almost ready. It will conclude that "recognition" in the abstract should be avoided, but rather that in each case the individual factual situation should be examined: land, treaties, tribal organization, history, etc and the question raised: recognition for what -- for services, for trust responsibility to lands, what specifically? Then the factual situation would be matched with the individual request ad hoc. The issue right here is whether the fact that GRF as a Congressman who supported recognition warrants making





a special exception to the general  
process just because GRF is now  
President.

I think not -- but may check  
with Connor.

Your OK solicited on this draft.

Please return the whole file.

*Bad*



Dear Mr. Mackety,

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter to him of July 21, 1976, which you personally delivered to me at our meeting August 25.

I have checked carefully here at the White House and find that it is the President's preference to have the Secretary go ahead with his present plan to identify and set forth standards and procedures for recognition of Indian tribes, a plan which means that all the pending applications for recognition would be ~~de~~ferred for a few weeks longer until those standards and procedures have been clarified.

I have checked with Interior, and find that this work is almost complete; an Opinion of the Solicitor is in its final stages.

I think the Huron Potawatomi tribe will find these new standards reasonable and I will help ensure that you get a prompt answer to your basic inquiry.

It was a genuine pleasure for me to have met you and your associates and I want to keep open the doors of communication which our meeting began.

Sincerely yours,

BHPjr



# HURON POTAWATOMI

ATHENS INDIAN RESERVATION

FULTON, MICHIGAN 49052



July 21, 1976

Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Sir:

The Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, formally requested Federal recognition in March of 1972. In response to that recognition request, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs promised a decision on the matter within a short period of time. They advised us to petition and to do certain other requirements, and although all those have been accomplished, to date there has been no decision.

In addition, two other requests, those of the Wisconsin Menominees and the "Soo" Chippewas have been granted in the interim. We consider our position as viable, if not more so, than their cases. Consequently, we justifiably feel discriminated against. We feel that the policy is at least inconsistent with the stated high ideals of your administration. We noted with interest your meeting of the week of July 12, 1976 with various Indian representatives and trust that that spirit of reconciliation will assist in our case too.

Since March of 1972 the knowledge of our efforts for recognition is increasing and many have actively supported our efforts. For your information we have enclosed a copy of recent letters from Governor Milliken, the Regional Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a resolution reflecting the attitude of Kalamazoo County and City. Additionally, we have been in touch with Senators Griffin and Hart and Congressman Gary Brown and they have responded with some offer of assistance.



Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States

-2-

July 21, 1976

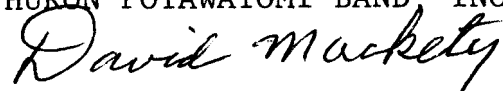
Finally, we have enclosed a copy of a letter from you, Mr. President, when as Congressman in 1973 you extended us your support on the same issue.

In the bicentennial observance of this republic, the place in which the native American holds its history is very obscured. The complexities which have brought this about are not some of the brightest chapters in American history. To reverse those incidents forthright affirmative action is needed wherever any inequity is presented for redress. Furthermore, the history of the native American is replete recently with instances where the radical element assumes the initiative to achieve goals in the face of continued attitude of the government of ignoring the problem and aloofness of the situation. On the other hand, we, of the Huron Potawatomi Band find much merit in the espousal of Christian principles that the leaders and statesmen of both races profess to be their guidelines. It is our hope that our initiative in this matter should not be further ignored and the "still small voice" be left unheeded.

Since our requests by petition, personal meetings with Mr. Morris Thompson, National Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and initiatives with our representatives in Washington have come to no avail, we call upon you as President of all of the people in these United States to use your influence and executive powers on our behalf. We, of course, cannot say just what procedure to request, but whether it be by executive order, Presidential proclamation, or personal urging of the Department of Interior, we urgently and respectfully request your assistance.

Most sincerely yours,

HURON POTAWATOMI BAND, INC.



David Mackety  
President  
R. R. # 1  
Fulton, Michigan 49052

CC: Honorable William G. Milliken  
Senator Robert Griffin  
Senator Philip Hart  
Congressman Gary Brown  
Congressman Richard Vanderveen  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Area Director  
Mr. James Hillman, Michigan Indian Commission



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

May 13, 1976

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN  
GOVERNOR

Dave Mackety, Chairman  
Huron-Potawatomi, Inc.  
Route #1  
Fulton, Michigan 49052

Dear Mr. Mackety:

It has been brought to my attention that you met recently with Mr. Jonathan Cain of my office, Mr. John Pirich of the Attorney General's office, and representatives of the Indian Affairs Commission.

I further understand that efforts you have made to obtain federal recognition and Tribal status for the Huron-Potawatomi have been unsuccessful. As I have indicated in previous correspondence, I am in support of your effort.

I have asked the Staff Director of the Indian Affairs Commission to work with you in documenting your previous efforts in this matter so that we will be in the best position to assist you through my office.

When the necessary background material is made available, appropriate contacts will be made in Washington to expedite this long overdue action.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,

*William G. Milliken*

Governor



Tribal Operations

FEB 10 1976

Memorandum

To: Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
Attn: Tribal Government Services

From: Office of the Area Director

Subject: Petition for Federal Recognition by Huron Potawatomi Band

We are enclosing for your ready reference the following documents:

1. Great Lakes Agency memorandum dated February 6, 1976, with enclosures.
2. Letter from David Mackety, Huron Potawatomi Band dated November 17, 1975, with enclosed letter to Commissioner of Indian Affairs and petition signed by members of the Huron Potawatomi Band.
3. Letter from the Governor, State of Michigan dated April 12, 1973.
4. Letter from the Secretary to Governor of State of Michigan dated July 10, 1973.
5. Bureau of Indian Affairs press release dated February 25, 1974.
6. Letter from the Attorney General, State of Michigan dated April 1, 1974.

We concur with the Superintendent of the Great Lakes Agency and recommend that the Huron Band be given federal recognition and authority to organize. We understand that there are other so-called state reservations, whereby the Indian land is held in trust by the state, who are receiving Bureau of Indian Affairs services. We strongly urge and recommend that the Huron Potawatomi Band members residing on the reservation be considered for Bureau services.

(Sgd.) George W. Goodwin

Area Director

cc:  
Great Lakes Agency  
Field Solicitor  
David Mackety

Congress of the United States  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 18, 1973

Mr. David Mackety  
R #1  
Fulton, Michigan

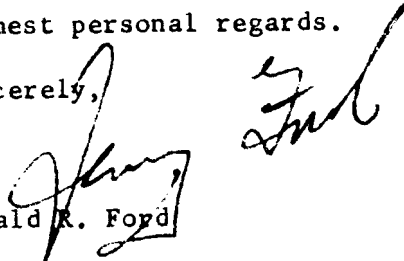
Dear Mr. Mackety,

I have forwarded your complete letter to the Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton with the recommendation that he give it favorable consideration.

I will notify you as soon as word is sent back from the Secretary as to the status of the request you submitted. I sincerely hope that it is granted. I appreciate hearing from you on this problem and hope that your correspondence will continue.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald R. Ford

GRF:jz



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians, located in Calhoun County, Michigan, has requested of the United States Department of Interior federal recognition and transfer of lands located in Calhoun County, Michigan, and held in trust for the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians by the Governor of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Michigan, the Honorable William G. Milliken, has expressed his willingness to expedite such transfer if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Huron Potawatomi Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Michigan has expressed on behalf of the State of Michigan support for the promotion of federal recognition of the Huron Potawatomi Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kalamazoo has expressed its support, promoting federal recognition of the Huron Potawatomi Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the request of the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians for such federal recognition and transfer of lands has not been acted upon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Kalamazoo does hereby join with the State of Michigan in supporting in principle the expeditious consideration of the request of the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians and in promotion recognition of said Band.



STATE OF MICHIGAN, }  
County of Kalamazoo, } ss.

I, PHILIP HASSING, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Kalamazoo, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct

copy of Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at its meeting on June 15, 1976.

as appears of Record in my office. That I have compared the same with the original, and it is a true transcript therefrom, and of the whole thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed

the Seal of said Court at Kalamazoo, this 17th

day of June A. D. 1976.

*Philip Hassing*

County Clerk

By Deputy Clerk





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20212

5/15/74  
Moratorium  
went on

REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. David Mackety  
President, Huron Potawatomi Band  
Route 1  
Fulton, Michigan 48505

MAR 15 1974

Dear Mr. Mackety:

I enjoyed very much our opportunity to get acquainted and do believe that we had a worthwhile exchange of information concerning the interests of the Huron Potawatomi Band of Indians seeking Federal recognition and obtaining the special services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We agreed that I would send you a letter outlining the services that would probably be available from the BIA were the Huron Potawatomi Band of Indians to be Federally recognized and the reservation to become a Federal reservation held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior. The following is a list of these BIA services.

1. Revenue sharing
2. Scholarships
3. Johnson-O'Malley funds
4. Adult vocational training
5. Direct employment assistance - transportation to the site of a position and subsistence until one's first paycheck
6. Realty services
7. Road services
8. Law and order - Michigan does not service Federal Indian reservations
9. Housing assistance through HUD and home improvement
10. Tribal government services
11. Forestry
12. Social services



Before deciding if they want to come under Federal supervision, the members of the Band should have specific information on services -- the amount, who would be eligible and how the services would be provided. As I mentioned to you, it would be unfortunate if there were disappointments due to unwarranted expectation of services from BIA. I pointed out to you that BIA, as a general policy, only provides services to those Indians residing on or near Federally recognized reservations. Enrolled members of the Band living away from the reservation should not expect to receive services. In order to get a better understanding of this question of services, I think it would be very worthwhile for you to invite Superintendent Reginald Miller of the Great Lakes Agency in Ashland, Wisconsin, to meet with your members on this subject.

After the members of the Band have carefully considered what they might lose and gain from a transfer of the reservation from State to Federal status, I would like to have an expression of opinion by the membership. This might be done by a referendum vote, by a petition or a mass meeting of the members adopting a resolution.

In our discussions I pointed out that the procedures for Federal recognition will involve the State of Michigan, the BIA, the Interior Department Solicitor's office and possibly the Congress. The first step, however, is up to the members of the Band.

As you have requested, I am sending a copy of this letter to Governor Milliken.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Morris Thompson

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

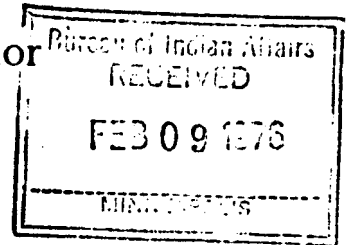
cc: Governor Milliken  
Mr. Elliott S. Pamp, V.P., Huron Potawatomi Band  
Minneapolis Area Director  
Superintendent, Great Lakes Agency



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Great Lakes Agency  
Ashland, Wisconsin  
54806



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Tribal Operations  
076.0 Huron Pot.

February 6, 1976

Memorandum

To: Area Director, Minneapolis Area  
Attn: Tribal Operations Officer

From: Acting Superintendent

Subject: Petition for Federal Recognition by Huron Potawatomi Band

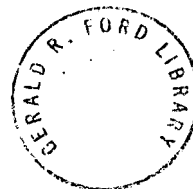
We are sorry for the long delay in answering your memorandum of November 24, 1975, concerning the above subject. We were disappointed when we received a copy of the memorandum dated December 18, 1975, from the Chief, Branch of Tribal Operations to Mr. David Mackety. This memorandum discouraged us in making any sort of recommendation toward the tribe's reorganization, however, we believe it is our responsibility to make a recommendation.

We have reviewed past correspondence on this matter, some of which is attached, and have concluded that this particular band of Huron Potawatomes has been desparately trying to seek federal recognition for several years in order to avail themselves of Bureau services.

Our recommendations are still the same as indicated in our memorandum dated May 12, 1971, to the Area Director, and our memorandum to the Commissioner on April 21, 1972. Copies attached. It is our understanding that the State of Michigan will turn the state property over to the tribe upon Federal recognition. It is our recommendation that the Huron Potawatom Band be given Federal recognition as soon as possible.

*Edmund M. Mandyke*  
Acting Superintendent

Enclosures



*Minneapolis  
Potawatomi  
of the Huron 050*

FILE COPY  
SURNAME

<i>May 12 1975</i>

**Tribal Government Services**

DEC 18 1975

Mr. David Mackety  
Huron Potawatomi Athens Indian  
Reservation  
Fulton, Michigan 49052

Dear Mr. Mackety:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 12 concerning a petition for Federal recognition of the Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians.

While the first page of your letter appears to be part of your original letter, the second page is a reproduction and the petition you referred to was not included. Notwithstanding these facts, former Secretary Morton and Solicitor Kent Frizzell were not sufficiently convinced that the Secretary of the Interior does in fact have legal authority to extend recognition to Indian tribes absent clear Congressional action. Nor, even if such authority can be said to exist, does the law appear to be clear as to the applicable standards and procedures for recognition. In short, they felt that the "recognition" concept is an exceedingly indefinite one. As a result attorneys in the Solicitor's office researched various questions connected with recognition and prepared detailed memoranda. That memoranda is now being reviewed.

Until that review is concluded and the future policy relating to administrative recognition of Indians tribes or bands has been determined, we will be unable to act upon the petition of the Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. If you will send the petition forward, however, we will be happy to hold it in our files for immediate action following the determination of future policy.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Leslie N. Goy

Chief, Branch of Tribal Relations

cc: Minneapolis Area Dir.  
Supt., Great Lakes Agency

Surname  
Chrony 440  
Mailroom

Holdup:Z. BARROW:dlb, 12/16/75, Cass. 20-A



T.C. ✓  
al Operations

MAR 12 1973

Mr. David Mackety  
President, Huron Potawatomi Band  
Route 1  
Fulton, Michigan 48505

Dear Mr. Mackety:

We have your letter of January 5 enclosing Resolution No. 2 adopted by the Huron Potawatomi Band, asking that Federal recognition be extended to it, that it be organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and that the Secretary of the Interior accept in trust the title to the land now occupied by the band.

The information contained in your letter will be helpful in the review of your request for Federal recognition of the band. We hope for a decision on that request in the not too distant future.

With regard to the transfer of title to the land now occupied by the band to the Secretary, before this may be done it will be necessary that the State of Michigan indicate its willingness to make the transfer. We suggest that you contact the appropriate officials of the State of Michigan and ascertain if the state will be agreeable to making the transfer. Also ascertain what action will be necessary on part of the state to effect a transfer of title if the Secretary of the Interior signifies his willingness to accept the title in trust.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Raymond V. Butler

Acting Director, Office of  
Community Services

cc: Area Director, Minneapolis  
Superintendent, Great Lakes Agency



ERLIND R. FORD LITH.

COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Department of Management and Budget  
Baker Olin-West, 2nd Floor S.E.  
3423 North Logan, Lansing, Michigan 48914

Phone: 517/373-0654

Aug. 27-1976

Mr. Bradley Patterson.  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Indian Affairs.  
Room 103  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Brad:-

We certainly appreciated the  
meeting with you and hope  
to meet with you again real  
soon, as I come into Washington  
at least once a month.

Ichi mi kwitich -  
"Great Thanks" - "Ottawa"

Sincerely -  
Louise E. Leznick, Ind. Rep.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

1.2-21-72

HURON POTAWATOMI BAND

WHEREAS: The Huron Potawatomi Band by Resolution, dated March 11, 1972, requested that their land, described in Resolution No. 1 and title to which is vested in the name of the Governor of Michigan, be transferred from the Governor to the Secretary of the Interior. See--Exhibit "A".

WHEREAS: On June 8, 1845, the President of the United States, James K. Polk, signed the Conveyance of the land (purchased with individual Indian money) to John S. Barry, Governor of Michigan, to be held in trust for a certain band of Indians of which Mo-gwa-go was chief. See-Exhibit "B".

WHEREAS: In 1904, in Court of Claims No. 21300 in case of Phineas Pamptopee, the award of \$78,329.25 by Act of Congress was disbursed among 268 Huron Potawatomis. Samuel L. Taggart as the U.S. Agent signed and approved the roll on November 11, 1904. See-Exhibit "C".

WHEREAS: In 1857 near Tama, Iowa, a remnant of the Sac and Fox Tribe purchased 80 acres of land, money for which was obtained from the sale of their ponies and annuity payments. Title to purchased land was vested in the name of Governor of Iowa in trust; however, in 1896 this trusteeship was transferred from the Governor to the Secretary of the Interior. More land has been added from time to time, purchased with tribal funds, until Indian land in Tama County now totals about 3,400 acres. Tribal enrollment of the Sac and Fox Tribe was 795 as of November 1, 1969.

WHEREAS: The Huron Potawatomi membership committee reports as of November 1, 1972, there is tribal enrollment in excess of 300.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Rogers C.B. Morton, be requested to give immediate, just and fair consideration to the request of the Huron Potawatomi Band to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act and to have title to the above described lands transferred from the Governor of Michigan to the United States of America in trust for the Huron Potawatomi Band.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor of Michigan, Honorable William G. Milliken, give a statement of agreement to the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton indicating his support of a change in trusteeship and for Federal recognition of the Huron Potawatomi Band.





At a duly called special Business Committee Meeting of the Huron Potawatomi Band Inc., this resolution was considered and agreed to. All members of the Committee were present at Waukegan Michigan.

The vote count 6 and NONE.  
Yes No

Chairman, David Mackety

Vice Chairman, Elliott S. Parsipape

Secretary, Shirley Simmons

12-21-72  
Date



Minneapolis  
Huron Potowatomi  
050

Simmons 4-7
Day
Page 41911
Burke 4/13

Tribal Government Services

Memorandum

APR 13 1976

To: Minneapolis Area Director

From: Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Subject: Petition for Federal Recognition by Huron Potowatomi Band

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 10 relative to the above subject.

Our letter of December 18, 1975, to Mr. David Mackety, copies of which were sent to you and the Great Lakes Agency, advised that the recognition policy of the Department was under review and we could not take action on the numerous requests for recognition currently before this office until a final decision had been reached. Since a decision has not yet been made, we can only hold the Huron Potowatomi Band's request in abeyance. We, too, share your concern for an early determination.

(SGD) Morris Thompson

cc: Supt., Great Lakes Agency

Surname  
 BCCO  
 Commr. Reading File  
 Chrony 440  
 Code 400  
 Mailroom  
 Holdup:P. SIMMONS:dlb, 4/6/76, Cass. 15-A





WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W.; Suite 609  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202/872-8550

August 23, 1976

Mr. Brad Patterson  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear <sup>Brad</sup>~~Mr. Patterson~~:

Enclosed is the correspondence on the Huron-Potawatomi Indians who are looking forward to discussing with you how they can become Federally recognized as a tribe. They sent all the necessary material to the Bureau of Indian Affairs when it was the prerogative of BIA to grant such recognition. However, BIA misplaced the documents and when that was finally discovered, they requested the Huron-Potawatomi resubmit their request. By the time they resubmitted, BIA was no longer able to grant Federal recognition. Therefore, the Indian Commission is coming to you.

The following is the list of people who will be attending the meeting with you on August 25, 1976 at 11:00 a.m.:

Jim Hillman, Director, Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs  
Viola Peterson, Chairman of the Board, Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs  
Louise Reznik, Federal-liaison, Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs  
David Mackety, Chairman, Huron-Potawatomi Band, Inc.

This group will be accompanied by the undersigned who is the Director of the State of Michigan Washington Office and Special Assistant to Governor Milliken.

Thank you for your interest in this problem.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Horn  
Special Assistant  
to the Governor



## POTAWATOMI

### NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND

The habitat of the Potawatomi Nation prior to the early 1840's was from the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan, across to Detroit and environs, and from the Huron and Grand rivers southward to the northern parts of the bordering three states, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In the pressure and coercion from the east of being divested of their lands, they were forcibly moved by soldiers to the west of the Mississippi. During this period of the early 1840's, of the three tribes of Michigan, the Potawatomi experienced perhaps the greatest convulsion and deterioration.<sup>1</sup>

Following this period there emerged six bands of the Potawatomi. Two bands remain west of the Mississippi. They are the Prairie and Citizens bands of Kansas and Oklahoma. The Forest County Potawatomi band is in Crandon, Wisconsin. Three bands reside in Michigan. The Hannahville Potawatomi reside in Menominee county.

The band originally known as the Pokagon band has now become two groups. One is known as the Potawatomi of Michigan and Indiana. The other is known as the Potawatomi Indian Nation, Inc. Their base roll is the Cadman Roll of 1896. Pokagons band was exempted from being moved westward on religious consideration. The locale of this band is southwest Michigan, in the Dowagiac and Hartford areas.<sup>1</sup>



The Nottawaseepi Huron band is indicative of those times. Many Potawatomi refused and therefore hid from being moved westward. Many came back to their original habitat. Chief Moguga returned with some members of the band and other members were scattered to Bradley and Allegan county.<sup>2</sup>

One hundred twenty acres of land was purchased near Athens and placed in trust to the state of Michigan in 1848. This land is base of much of the history from then until now. The base roll for this band is called the Taggert roll of 1904. Today the present roll numbers approximately three hundred.<sup>3</sup>

The present status of the Nottawaseepi band is found from Bronson to Grand Rapids.

In 1970 a renewed interest was shown in our history. Reorganization was brought about to update areas that had declined. It was resolved that the band should seek federal recognition. Early ~~in~~ in 1972 our initial resolution was submitted to the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Outside of acknowledgement of receipt of resolution, no answer was forthcoming. After about a year resolution #2 was dispatched, praying for a definite answer. After about another year the two top council members were dispatched to visit Commissioner Thompson to evoke an answer. The Commissioner kindly requested that we re-petition the department again. After some hesitation this was done. Four years later we have yet received no decision either way. We realize that embodied in our resolution seeking recognition there is the elements that run counter to two hundred years of Bureau of Indian Affairs policy; namely, that

our band in majority live outside reservation boundary lines. After more than a century of non-recognition, this constitutes a major discrimination. Services that were not available for that hundred years or more could have been the difference that would have seen this generation meet more effectively the challenges of today's society.

We support Resolution 1976-100 sponsored by the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs.

1. Background of Judgements in Indian Claims Commission dockets- 15K, 29J, 217 also 15M, 29K and 146.
2. The Holcomb account
3. The Holcomb Account



#1  
MARCH 1972

RESOLUTION

HURON POTAWATOMI BAND

WHEREAS in Calhoun County, near Athens, there reside today approximately 50 Potawatomi Indians, or approximately 12 families. (There are over 200 Huron Potawatomis on the current 1972 Tribal Roll.) And this tax exempted land held in trust by the Governor of the State of Michigan. The legal name of this group of Indians is "Huron Potawatomi Band, Inc." Since the land-mark, the Nottawasippe River, is near this settlement of Indians, the term "Nottawasippe Potawatomi" is sometimes used for identification purposes; and

WHEREAS these lands as described were entered into the tract book in the Office of Register of Deeds in and for Calhoun County in the name of John S. Barry, Governor of Michigan and his successors in office forever, in trust, for a certain band of Indians, residents of Calhoun County, of which band of Indians Mo-gwa-go was Chief on June 9, 1845; and

WHEREAS William A. Booth and his wife, Louisa, conveyed to Governor of the State of Michigan, John S. Barry, in trust for a band of Indians residing in Calhoun County, of which Mo-gwa-go was Chief (recorded Nov. 22, 1845) - the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 Section 20 Township 4 South, Range 8 West, containing 80 acres more or less, Calhoun County, Athens Township, Michigan; and

WHEREAS the United States of America conveyed to the State of Michigan the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, Section 20, Township 4 South, Range 8 West, containing 40 acres according to the official plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General recorded November 22, 1884; and

WHEREAS the Indian Re-organization Act, Howard-Wheeler Act of 1934, offers programs and policies for any identifiable group of Indians. Since this I.R.A. program is offered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Federal Government, it could have far-reaching effects on the community development, on the remnant of these Potawatomi Indians, wherever they chose to live, on or off the premises of this Indian reservation, have availability of the socio-economic federally sponsored programs; and

WHEREAS the message of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Richard Nixon, so strongly advocates the "self-determination" for the American Indian be a major policy for his administration; and

WHEREAS the State Indian Reservation, 120 acres of land, the above described, under the trusteeship of the Governor of Michigan and his successors for some 127 years has offered no aid or help to alleviate the Indian socio-economic problems on this State Reservation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Huron Potawatomi Band, Incorporated of Michigan inform the Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs Land Operation of its decision to apply for a federal status Indian reservation; and be it further



RESOLVED, That the Governor of Michigan, William G. Milliken, be asked to consider this resolution as a recommendation for any act of legislation, if necessary, or any legal transaction to convey this present trusteeship of land from a State trust to a Federal trust Indian Reservation.

Date

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

At a duly scheduled public general meeting of Huron Potawatomi Band, this resolution was read at Hopkinsburg V.F.W. Hall at \_\_\_\_\_, Michigan, March 11, 1972.

The vote count \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Yes) (No)

Date

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_



RESOLUTION NO. 2

HURON POTAWATOMI BAND

9 am 67  
1 973

WHEREAS: The Huron Potawatomi Band by Resolution, dated March 11, 1972, requested that their land, described in Resolution No. 1 and title to which is vested in the name of the Governor of Michigan, be transferred from the Governor to the Secretary of the Interior. See--Exhibit "A".

WHEREAS: On June 8, 1845, the President of the United States, James K. Polk, signed the Conveyance of the land (purchased with individual Indian money) to John S. Barry, Governor of Michigan, to be held in trust for a certain band of Indians of which Mo-gwa-go was chief. See-Exhibit "B".

WHEREAS: In 1904, in Court of Claims No. 21300 in case of Phineas Pamptopee, the award of \$78,329.25 by Act of Congress was disbursed among 268 Huron Potawatomis. Samuel L. Taggart as the U.S. Agent signed and approved the roll on November 11, 1904. See-Exhibit "C".

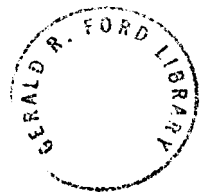
WHEREAS: In 1857 near Tama, Iowa, a remnant of the Sac and Fox Tribe purchased 80 acres of land, money for which was obtained from the sale of their ponies and annuity payments. Title to purchased land was vested in the name of Governor of Iowa in trust; however, in 1896 this trusteeship was transferred from the Governor to the Secretary of the Interior. More land has been added from time to time, purchased with tribal funds, until Indian land in Tama County now totals about 3,400 acres. Tribal enrollment of the Sac and Fox Tribe was 795 as of November 1, 1969.

WHEREAS: The Huron Potawatomi membership committee reports as of November 1, 1972, there is tribal enrollment in excess of 300.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Rogers C.B. Morton, be requested to give immediate, just and fair consideration to the request of the Huron Potawatomi Band to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act and to have title to the above described lands transferred from the Governor of Michigan to the United States of America in trust for the Huron Potawatomi Band.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor of Michigan, Honorable William G. Milliken, give a statement of agreement to the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton indicating his support of a change in trusteeship and for Federal recognition of the Huron Potawatomi Band.

REP. G. BROWN  
ARRANGED APP. T  
WITH MORRIS THOMPSON  
FEB 20, 1974



At a duly called special Business Committee Meeting of the Huron Potawatomi Band Inc., this resolution was considered and agreed to. All members of the Committee were present at Wyoming Michigan.

The vote count 6 and NONE.  
Yes No

Chairman, \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Chairman, Elliott S. Pamplopa

Secretary, Shirley Simmons

12-21-72  
Date

Congress of the United States  
Office of the Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 16, 1973

Mr. David Mackety  
R #1  
Fulton, Michigan

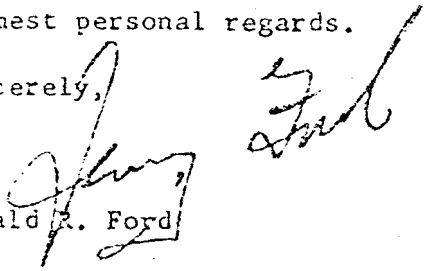
Dear Mr. Mackety,

I have forwarded your complete letter to the Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton with the recommendation that he give it favorable consideration.

I will notify you as soon as word is sent back from the Secretary as to the status of the request you submitted. I sincerely hope that it is granted. I appreciate hearing from you on this problem and hope that your correspondence will continue.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. Ford

GRF:jz

STATE OF MICHIGAN



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

JOHN T. Dempsey, Director

COMMISSION ON  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
454 Executive Bldg.  
105 W. Allegan Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48902  
Phone 517 373-0654  
James R. Hillman,  
Director

COMMISSION MEMBERS  
John Lukens, Chairman  
Philip Alexs, Vice-Chairman  
Doris Adams, Secretary  
Ray Campos  
William Cross  
Lester Gemmill  
Dean George  
Maurice LeBlanc  
Arnold Sowmick

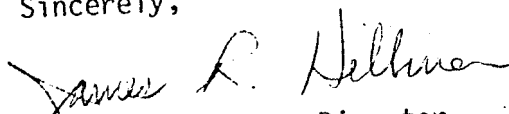
May 29, 1974

To: All Potawatomi Groups  
Northern Michigan Ottawa Association - All Units

While I was in Washington, I ran across this legislation which may be of interest to you. It appears to me that your group, tribe or organization may be eligible to qualify under the Restoration Act, and I suggest that if you are interested in pursuing it further, you contact our office and we can work together on it.

This Act may be the method by which groups and bands such as yours can become eligible for additional federal services even though you do not have trust land.

Sincerely,

  
James R. Hillman, Director  
Commission on Indian Affairs

JRH/s  
Enclosure

cc: All Commissioners





administrative officials charged with responsibility hereunder shall develop a policy for recognition and restoration to recognition which is uniform and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

### SECTION 3. Definitions

(a) "final order" means the whole or a part of an ultimate disposition whether affirmative, negative, or conditional in form, of the Secretary in a matter arising under this Act;

(b) "person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or public or private organization other than an agency;

(c) "the Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Bureau of Indians Affairs;

(d) "the Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of the Interior;

(e) "the Solicitor" means the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior; and,

(f) "treaty relations" means a tribe or band having entered into a treaty with the United States which was ratified by the United States Senate or, failing such ratification, such tribe or band having been induced on the basis of entering into such a treaty to rely to its detriment.

SECTION 4. Standards for Recognition

(a) An applicant tribe or band shall be extended recognition if the applicant tribe or band lives in a community relationship, maintains a distinct identity, and, as a tribe or band, satisfies any one of the following requirements:

- (i) it has had treaty relations with the United States, or;
- (ii) it has been the recipient of services provided either by Congressional appropriation or administrative action, or;
- (iii) it has previously had property held in trust for the benefit of the applicant tribe or band by the United States, or;
- (iv) it has been recognized, or the recipient of services, by or from a state government or a political subdivision thereof, or;
- (v) it has, in its relations with other Indian tribes or bands, consistently been recognized by them as a distinct tribe or band of Indians.

(b) An order extending recognition shall set forth the types of services for which the applicant tribe or band shall be eligible and any other conditions of the recognition and such portion or portions of the initial decision, the decision of the administrative law judge, or decision and final order of the Secretary shall be reviewable as provided in sections 7 and 8 of this Act.

SECTION 5. Standards for Restoration to Recognition

(a) Any tribe or band of Indians which has at any time been recognized by the United States and has subsequently had this recognition rescinded through termination by Act of Congress or an administrative determination may be restored to recognized status if:

(i) a majority of the enrolled adult members of the tribe or band elect, in a referendum conducted by the Secretary, to be so restored, and;

(ii) the applicant tribe or band lives in a community relationship and has maintained its identity.

(b) Following the satisfaction of the standards set forth in sub-section (a) of this section, the Commissioner is directed to enter into discussions with interested parties regarding the transfer, or other disposition, of assets of the tribe or band, including the settlement of outstanding private claims. The Commissioner shall have responsibility for developing a plan relating to the above and his decision in this matter shall be deemed an initial decision within the meaning of section 7(a) of this Act.

SECTION 6. Application for Recognition or Restoration to Recognition

Any applicant tribe or band of Indians seeking recognition or restoration to recognition under the provisions of sections 4 or 5 of this Act shall file an application with the Commissioner. The application shall contain such information as the Commissioner shall, by regulation, require, which shall include but not be



limited to the name of the applicant, tribal or band, the argument to be presented by the applicant that it meets the requirements of the standards of sections 4 or 5 of this Act, any evidence supporting its argument, and a proposed order granting the request of the applicant including any condition as set forth in sections 4(b) or 5(b) of this Act.

#### SECTION 7. Decision-making process

##### (a) Initial decision of the Commissioner

(i) Any group of Indians not then recognized by the United States as a tribe or band of Indians may make application to the Commissioner as described in section 6 of this Act. Notice that application has been made pursuant to section 6 of this Act shall be published in the Federal Register. The notice shall set forth the time and place of the conference provided in subsection 7(a)(ii) below.

(ii) Within 30 days following the filing of the application the Commissioner, or a Deputy Commissioner, shall hold a conference during which the applicant shall present the case for granting the application. The Solicitor, or his delegate, may respond with reasons, if any, why the application should be denied, or granted with limitations and conditions. Other interested persons may present written memoranda in support of or opposition to the application and may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be present at the conference and participate therein.

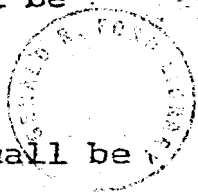
conference the Commissioner shall issue an initial decision setting forth the underlying reasoning supporting the grant or denial of the application. In the case of a grant of the application by the Commissioner where the decision limits the types of services to be provided, or places other conditions on the grant, the limitations and/or conditions shall also be set forth, and the underlying reasoning shall be explained. The initial decision of the Commissioner shall be published in the Federal Register.

(b) Hearing

(i) If the initial decision issued pursuant to section 7(a)(iii) of this Act is a denial of the application or, if a grant of the application places limitations or other conditions on the grant, the applicant may file a notice for hearing within twenty days following the initial decision. The notice demanding a hearing shall state the factual basis of the claim to be heard in the same form as set forth in section 6 of this Act. Written memoranda may be submitted by the applicant and other interested parties prior to the hearing. Failure to file a timely notice for hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the hearing provided herein and shall be deemed an acceptance of the initial decision.

(ii) A hearing before an administrative law judge shall be held pursuant to 5 U.S.C. sections 554 and 556 within 30 days following the timely notice for a hearing. The administrative law judge shall be appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. section 3105.

(iii) The applicant and the Commissioner shall be entitled to present their view of the case to the administrative law judge.



Other interested persons may, in the discretion of the administrative law judge, participate in the hearing.

(iv) The administrative law judge shall issue his written opinion within 60 days following the completion of the hearing. He shall determine whether the application should be granted or whether the limitations or conditions, if any, set forth in the initial decision of the Commissioner in the grant of the application should continue in effect on the basis of the standards set forth in sections 4 and 5 of this Act. The written opinion of the administrative law judge shall be published in the Federal Register.

(v) At any time prior to the rendering of the opinion by the administrative law judge the applicant and the Commissioner may enter into an agreement regarding the disposition of the application which may have the effect of suspending any action of the administrative law judge.

(c) Order of the Secretary

(i) The opinion of the administrative law judge required by sub-section 7(b)(iv) of this Act shall be transmitted to the Secretary within 10 days following its issuance.

(ii) The Secretary, or his delegate, may hold a conference to discuss the case within 60 days following receipt of the opinion of the administrative law judge by the Secretary. The time and place of the conference shall be announced by the Office of the Secretary and such announcement shall be published in the Federal Register. All interested persons shall be entitled to submit written material to the Secretary and may, in the discretion of the Secretary, participate

in the conference. When the Secretary designates a subordinate to act as his delegate in these matters, the subordinate shall not be an official who has in any way had contact with the case previously.

(iii) If the Secretary approves of the opinion he shall sign it and it shall become a final order. If he rejects the opinion or would modify the decision of the administrative law judge he shall prepare a written statement of the reasons for his rejection or modification and a statement of his disposition of the matter, and such statements shall be issued by him and shall constitute a final order. The written statement and final order of the Secretary shall be issued within 90 days following his receipt of the opinion of the administrative law judge, which shall be published in the Federal Register.

#### SECTION 8. Judicial Review

(a) The applicant tribe or band, or any other person whose interests are affected by a final order of the Secretary, may obtain review of such order in the court of appeals of the United States, within the District of Columbia Circuit, or within any circuit wherein the applicant tribe or band claims to reside. In the event that petitions for review of one final order of the Secretary are introduced in different courts of appeal of the United States, the court having jurisdiction over the petition of the applicant tribe or band shall assume jurisdiction over all related petitions, provided, however, that where the applicant tribe or band has not petitioned for review the court in which the first notice of appeal is filed shall assume jurisdiction over all related petitions.

precedence over other cases pending therein, and shall be in every way expedited.

(c) An order of the Secretary shall become final upon the expiration of 30 days following its issuance if no notice or notices of appeal have been filed within any court of appeal of the United States; if otherwise, an order shall become final as directed by the court of appeal petitioned for review.

(d) Proceedings of the courts of appeal shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of 5 U.S.C. sections 702, 704, 705, and 706.

#### SECTION 9. Authorization of Appropriation

(a) There is authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to provide the services called for by the recognition or restoration to recognition of any tribe or band of Indians.

#### SECTION 10. Report of the Secretary

The Secretary shall annually transmit to the Congress of the United States a Report on actions taken regarding the recognition and restoration to recognition of applicant Indian tribes or bands under the terms of this Act. The Report shall consist of a detailed statement of the initial decisions of the Commissioner, agreements made with the applicant or other interested persons, and each final order of the Secretary.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



STANLEY D. STEINBORN  
Deputy Attorney General

FRANK J. KELLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

LANSING  
48913

April 1, 1974

APR 3 1974

Mr. Raymond P. Lightfoot  
831 Second Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Lightfoot:

I have been referred to you to inquire about the status of the request of the Huron Band of Potawatomes located near Athens, Michigan, for recognition under the Wheeler Howard Act.

The State of Michigan, as has been indicated by a letter from Governor Milliken to Interior Secretary Morton, is very interested in doing all it can to promote recognition. I have been informed that some concern exists about the transfer of the land now held in trust for the Huron Band of Potawatomes by the Governor of Michigan. In his letter to Secretary Morton, the Governor indicated his willingness to make the necessary transfer of lands at the proper time.

In general, the State of Michigan has sought to do all in its power to promote federal recognition for this group of Indian citizens. If anything further is required of the State at this time, we would appreciate being advised so that we can proceed to make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Solomon H. Bienenfeld*  
Solomon H. Bienenfeld  
First Assistant

cc: Elmer Nitzschke  
Maryanna Shulstad  
Les Gay  
Jim Hillman ✓

cc P. H. Hays

J. Lofking

D. H. Hays

1 1 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

May 13, 1976

Dave Mackety, Chairman  
Huron-Potawatomi, Inc.  
Route #1  
Fulton, Michigan 49052

Dear Mr. Mackety:

It has been brought to my attention that you met recently with Mr. Jonathan Cain of my office, Mr. John Pirich of the Attorney General's office, and representatives of the Indian Affairs Commission.

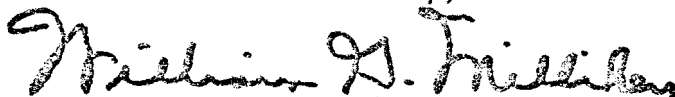
I further understand that efforts you have made to obtain federal recognition and Tribal status for the Huron-Potawatomi have been unsuccessful. As I have indicated in previous correspondence, I am in support of your effort.

I have asked the Staff Director of the Indian Affairs Commission to work with you in documenting your previous efforts in this matter so that we will be in the best position to assist you through my office.

When the necessary background material is made available, appropriate contacts will be made in Washington to expedite this long overdue action.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,



Governor

# HURON POTAWATOMI

ATHENS INDIAN RESERVATION

FULTON, MICHIGAN 49052



May 21, 1976

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1976 -19

COMMISSION ON  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. James Hillman, Director  
Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs  
Dept. of Management & Budget  
Baker Olin-West, Flr. 2, SE  
3423 N. Logan Street  
Lansing, MI 48914

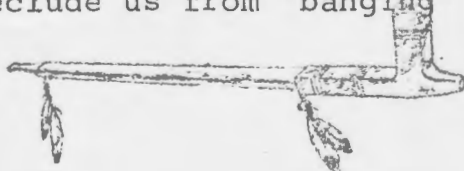
Re: Recognition, Huron Potawatomi

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Four years of efforts have produced no decision since the Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi's initial request for Federal Recognition. You have been made aware of this in the last few weeks since our request to the State of Michigan via Governor Milliken and the Commission on Indian Affairs for more involved assistance.

While Governor Milliken has supported our goal from the outset, the Commission's more recent involvement and efforts are very encouraging and promise to be very fruitful. Governor Milliken's reply to the above mentioned request still assures us of his support and stands ready to implement whatever course seems to be the most advisable.

However, being election year with its attendant diversion and transitions, another year or longer of delay can be foreseen, judging by past performance and our present information. Inconsistent policy of the B.I.A. of granting recognition (Menominee and Soo Chippewa) on the one hand and ignoring others will not preclude us from "banging" on the door.





Mr. James Hillman

May 21, 1976

Page Two.

At our last council meeting, it was voted to also request financial assistance in these efforts.

In 1976, when the majority of the people are pausing to look at 200 years of exploits and the fruits and are thankful to be free of oppression (so they told us), we think this request should come before the appropriate body that represents the people.

We leave it to the Commission, through you Jim, to make this contact in whatever manner is the procedure, and also advise the Governor of any action.

With best regards,

David Mackety  
Chairman

Encs: