



GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.

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Shannon Holsey, President

**Resolution No. 2018-10.04
In Opposition to Metallic Mineral Mining**

Whereas, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. is a consortium of eleven federally recognized Indian tribes located in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and

Whereas, the consortium has adopted bylaws which authorize the Board of Directors to present and pass resolutions in support of actions that benefit tribal communities; and

Whereas, treaty rights are rights tribes reserved in the treaties with the United States, which, in the upper Great Lakes region, were signed in the mid-1800s; and

Whereas, in the treaties, the sovereign, signatory tribes reserved right to hunt, fish and gather in the lands ceded to the United States. As a treaty signatory, the United States guaranteed these off-reservation rights to the tribes; and

Whereas, historical records show that the tribes would not sign the treaties until the United States agreed that they could continue their way of life on the ceded lands to meet their subsistence, economic, cultural, spiritual and medicinal needs; and

Whereas, courts have reaffirmed that these off-reservation rights continue to exist, and they extend to both inland and Great Lakes areas; and

Whereas, tribal life is rooted in a spiritual connection to the natural world; the source of tribal health and wellness for past, present and future generations, making the relationship with the natural world sacred; and

Whereas, tribal lifeways depend upon clean, healthy and abundant natural resources for religious, medicinal, cultural, subsistence and economic purposes. Tribes manage natural resources with other governmental partners to ensure that the resources are abundant, available and safe to consume; and

Whereas, metallic mineral mining poses numerous risks to the tribal lifeway and to the resources that tribes rely upon to sustain their traditional way of life; and

Whereas, any metallic mineral mining in the upper Great Lakes Region poses significant and detrimental threats to the environment, water, wildlife, animals and places of historic, religious and cultural significance to Native American people; and

Whereas, metallic mineral mining has not become less risky. There are countless examples of nonferrous metallic mineral development that have caused serious and long-lasting pollution of surface water, groundwater, wetlands and other ecosystems. With the elimination of the “prove it first” requirement under Wisconsin state law, Wisconsin citizens no longer have the assurance that a mine has operated safely *somewhere* in the United States or Canada. This consortium of Sovereign Tribal Nations requires a “prove it first” requirement for the assurance that a mine has operated *safely* somewhere else in the United States or Canada; and

Whereas, uncertainty continues to exist about whether the risks associated with metallic mineral mining can be avoided or adequately mitigated, and this uncertainty makes it unwise to engage in metallic mineral mining in the upper Great Lakes Region; and

Whereas, the threats associated with metallic mineral mining far outweigh the short-term benefits associated with the mining; and

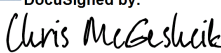
Whereas, should any new metallic mineral mining projects be proposed, state and federal agencies have a duty to consult with the tribes that may be impacted by those projects, and to do so in a timely and thorough manner; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Board of Directors is extremely concerned about how proposed metallic mineral mining activities of any kind could negatively impact the traditional way of life of tribal members, and treaty-protected hunting, fishing, and gathering by tribal members.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. hereby declares strong opposition to any metallic mineral mining activity in the upper Great Lakes Region.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned President of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors on the 26th day of October, 2018.

DocuSigned by:

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Chris McGeshick, President