



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

APR 16 2020

Mr. Ron Yob
PO Box 2937
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-2937

Dear Mr. Yob:

The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (Petitioner #146) is under active consideration for a Proposed Finding (PF) in the Federal acknowledgment process. By letter of October 17, 2019, we previously indicated that the Department would issue the PF on April 16, 2020. This letter is to advise you that the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) has suspended active consideration for the PF on Petitioner #146 and further extended the date of issuance of the PF.

Under §83.10(g) of 25 CFR Part 83 (1994), the AS-IA has the discretion to suspend active consideration of a documented petition, either conditionally or for a stated period of time. Moreover, under §83.10(h) of 25 CFR Part 83 (1994), the AS-IA has the discretion to extend the evaluation period for the proposed finding up to an additional 180 days.

The AS-IA found good cause both to suspend active consideration under §83.10(g) and to extend active consideration under § 83.10(h). The AS-IA has suspended active consideration of the PF, *conditionally*, based on administrative problems caused by the current COVID-19 emergency. The duration of the suspension (and the determination of when to end it) will be predicated on several factors, including the ongoing imposition of state and national state-of-emergency declarations, stay-at-home directives, and limits on the size of public gatherings across the District of Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, Virginia, and the United States as whole. After the suspension period ends, the AS-IA has granted OFA an additional 90 to 180 days to prepare the PF, depending on the availability of an evaluation team at that time.

During the suspension period, GRB may wish to submit an updated membership list and new member files.

This letter notifies Petitioner #146 and interested and informed parties of this suspension and subsequent extension. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4071-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Thank you for your patience. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

cc: Interested and Informed Parties