



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

23 FEB 2023

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

Dear Mr. Yob:

The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed and issued a proposed finding (PF) on the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (Petitioner) petition for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe. This review occurred under the 1994 version of 25 CFR Part 83 (1994 regulations), as chosen by the Petitioner in their September 14, 2015, letter to the Department. Based on the available evidence, the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS–IA) proposes to determine that the Petitioner is not an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law.

Enclosed please find copies of the PF and corresponding notice, scheduled to be published in the *Federal Register* on February 27, 2023. The Petitioner, or any individual or organization wishing to challenge or support the PF, shall have 180 days from the publication date of the *Federal Register* notice to submit arguments and evidence to the AS–IA to rebut or support the PF. *See* 25 CFR § 83.10(i). The AS–IA has the discretion to extend the comment period upon a finding of good cause, and the Petitioner and interested parties shall be notified by letter of any extension.

During the comment period, the Department will provide, if requested, technical advice concerning the factual basis for the PF, the reasoning used in preparing it, and suggestions regarding the preparation of materials in response to the PF. The AS–IA will make available to the Petitioner in a timely fashion any records used for the PF not already held by the Petitioner, to the extent allowable by Federal law. *See* 25 CFR § 83.10(j)(1).

Additionally, the AS–IA will, if requested by the Petitioner or any interested party, hold a formal, on-the-record meeting for the purpose of inquiring into the reasoning, analyses, and factual bases for the PF. The meeting record will be available to any participating party and become part of the record considered by the AS–IA in reaching a final determination. *See* 25 CFR §83.10(j)(2).

Requests for a formal meeting should be made as soon as possible to permit timely scheduling and notice to all parties. A copy of the guidelines concerning formal meetings under the 1994 regulations is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4071 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240 or call (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lee Henning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

3 Enclosures:

Petitioner Proposed Finding

Approved *Federal Register* notice

Guidelines for Formal Technical Assistance Meetings

cc: Interested and Informed Parties
Bob Holmes