



[EXTERNAL] Comment Letter in Support of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians' Federal Recognition

From Sierra Pedley <Sierra.Pedley@nhbp-nsn.gov>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 4:28 PM

To BIA OFA Info <ofa_info@BIA.GOV>

Cc Amy Wesaw <Amy.Wesaw@nhbp-nsn.gov>

 1 attachment (695 KB)

Comment Ltr re GRBOI Fed. Rec_w DR Sign.pdf;

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Good afternoon,

Please find our attached Public Comment concerning the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians petition #146 for Federal Recognition.

Thank you,

SIERRA PEDLEY | Paralegal

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI

Pine Creek Indian Reservation

1485 Mno-Bmadzewen Way, Fulton, MI 49052

o: 269.704.8518 | **c:** [REDACTED] | **f:** 269.729.4829

Sierra.Pedley@nhbp-nsn.gov | www.nhbp-nsn.gov



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**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Dorie Rios
Tribal Council Chairperson
269-729-5151
Dorie.Rios@nhbp-nsn.gov

July 11, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Office of Federal Acknowledgment
Ofa_Info@bia.gov

Re: Public Comment Concerning the Grand River Band Petition #146 for Federal Recognition

Dear Office of Federal Recognition,

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) submits this comment to document its ardent support for the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (GRBOI). NHBP urges the Office of Federal Recognition to take action formally acknowledging the truth that the GRBOI is a tribal nation that maintains a distinct political identity that has existed since time immemorial.

The GRBOI, the named successor-in-interest of the Grand River Ottawa People, began and continues its existence in Western Michigan along the Grand River in and around Muskegon and Grand Rapids. The GRBOI established a clear and documented sovereign government-to-government relationship with the United States that included the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, 1807 Treaty of Detroit, 1821 Treaty of Chicago, 1836 Treaty of Washington, and 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

The GRBOI has maintained its uninterrupted existence as a sovereign nation, governing its citizens, through a multitude of continuous actions. It perpetuates membership; routinely holds tribal council meetings to discuss and decide governmental matters; collects and allocates resources to promote the health, welfare, and safety of its tribal citizens; continues traditional gatherings and cultural engagements specific to both GRBOI and Ottawa heritage; engages economic development efforts; and sustains government-to-government relationships with other Michigan tribes, the State of Michigan, and the City of Grand Rapids for legislation, consultation, and involvement.



As such, NHBP recognizes the GRBOI as a historical tribal nation. In fact, it provides preference employment opportunities to its members and welcomes its members to participate in cultural practices and community gatherings. NHBP understands that other tribes, like the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi, similarly recognize and work with the GRBOI as a sister nation. But tribal, state, and local governments can only do so much.

Federal reaffirmation would ensure, among other things, the GRBOI's citizens receive healthcare, housing, education assistance, and the right to more fully govern itself. Federal recognition of the GRBOI is consistent with the Federal government's trust responsibility to those tribal nations it engaged with on a government-to-government level. This responsibility was, in part, established by way of the negotiated treaties and enumerated promises that unequivocally included the GRBOI.

NHBP stands with the GRBOI in attaining the reaffirmation of its conclusive status as a sovereign native nation and unconditionally agrees with its effort to finally achieve this overdue federal recognition.

Very truly yours,

Dorie Rios

Tribal Council Chairperson