Oneida Business Committee

Special Meeting
3:00 PM Wednesday, July 17, 2019
BC Conference Room, 2nd floor, Norbert Hill Center

Agenda

Meeting agenda is available here: oneida-nsn.gov/government/business-committee/agendas-packets/. Materials for the "General Tribal Council" section of the agenda, if any, are available to enrolled members of the Oneida Nation; to obtain a copy, visit the BC Support Office, 2nd floor, Norbert Hill Center and present a valid Tribal I.D. or go to https://goo.gl/uLp2jE. Scheduled times are subject to change.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OPENING

III. ADOPT THE AGENDA

IV. OATH OF OFFICE

A. Oneida Election Board alternates - Beverly Anderson, Crystal Martinez, Ramona Salinas, and Terry Thomas
Sponsor: Vicki Cornelius, Chair/Oneida Election Board

V. RESOLUTIONS

A. Adopt resolution entitled Oneida Business Committee Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for Presentation to General Tribal Council
Sponsor: Trish King, Treasurer

VI. APPOINTMENTS

A. Appoint three (3) alternates to the Oneida Election Board - 2019 Special Election
Sponsor: Vicki Cornelius, Chair/Oneida Election Board

VII. TRAVEL REQUESTS

A. Approve the travel request - Chairman Tehassi Hill - Detroit Democratic Presidential Primary Debate - Detroit, MI - July 30-August 1, 2019
Sponsor: Tehassi Hill, Chairman

B. Approve travel request in accordance with §219.6-1 - One (1) individual - 2019 Special Election - Milwaukee, WI - July 19-21, 2019
Sponsor: Vicki Cornelius, Chair/Oneida Election Board

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter regarding the US Fish and Wildlife Service Proposed Rule: Removing the Gray Wolf from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
Sponsor: Tehassi Hill, Chairman

IX. GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL

A. Approve notice and materials for the September 16, 2019, tentatively scheduled special GTC meeting
Sponsor: Trish King, Treasurer

X. ADJOURN

Posted on the Oneida Nation's official website, www.oneida-nsn.gov pursuant to the Open Records and Open Meetings law (§ 107.14.)

The meeting packet of the open session materials for this meeting is available by going to the Oneida Nation's official website at: oneida-nsn.gov/government/business-committee/agendas-packets/

For information about this meeting, please call the Business Committee Support Office at (920) 869-4364 or (800) 236-2214

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

Oneida Election Board alternates - Beverly Anderson, Crystal Martinez, Ramona Salinas, and Terry Thom

1. Meeting Date Requested: 7 / 17 / 19

2. General Information:

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive - See instructions for the applicable laws, then choose one:

Agenda Header: Oaths of Office

☐ Accept as Information only

☒ Action - please describe:

Administer Oaths of Office for Oneida Election Board alternates:
Beverly Anderson, Crystal Martinez, Ramona Salinas, and Terry Thomas.

3. Supporting Materials

☐ Report ☐ Resolution ☐ Contract

☐ Other:

1. 3.

2. 4.

☐ Business Committee signature required

4. Budget Information

☐ Budgeted - Tribal Contribution ☐ Budgeted - Grant Funded ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Submission

Authorized Sponsor / Liaison: Vicki Cornelius, Election Board Chairperson

Primary Requestor/Submitter:
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

6. Cover Memo:

Describe the purpose, background/history, and action requested:

The Oneida Election Board posted for eight (8) Alternates to help with the 2019 Special Elections scheduled to be held on July 20th, 2019. We need to fill the one (1) recused board members positions and request the other seven (7) to help for the election day, which include 2 on standby in case of an emergency, if an Alternate or board member can not work the elections.

The Election Board is asking that the four (4) Tribal Members be sworn in as Election Alternates. This is so the Election Board can keep in compliance with the Oneida Election Law.

"102.4-7 The Business Committee may appoint or reappoint a sufficient number of alternates to the Election Board, as recommended by the Election Board, to assist with election day and pre-election activities."

Ramona Salinas was appointed by the Oneida Business Committee on 7/10/2019

Later on the 7/17 BC agenda, the Election Board is asking that the three (3) Tribal Members be appointed as Election Alternates. This Agenda Request is for the Oath of Office to be administered to the alternates appointed.

***The agenda will need to be adjusted so that the appointment of the alternates is addressed before this item.

1) Save a copy of this form for your records.

2) Print this form as a *.pdf *OR* print and scan this form in as *.pdf.

3) E-mail this form and all supporting materials in a **SINGLE** *.pdf file to: BC_Agenda_Requests@oneidanation.org

Adopt resolution entitled Oneida Business Committee Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for...

Business Committee Agenda Request

1. **Meeting Date Requested:** 07/17/19

2. **General Information:**

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive – must qualify under §107.4-1.

Justification: *Choose reason for Executive.*

3. **Supporting Documents:**

☐ Report ☒ Resolution ☐ Minutes

☐ Memo/Letter ☐ Bylaws ☐ Contract

☐ Legal Review ☐ Fiscal Impact Statement ☒ Statement of Effect

☐ Other: *Describe*

4. **Budget Information:**

☐ Budgeted ☐ Budgeted – Grant Funded ☐ Unbudgeted

☒ Not Applicable ☐ Other: *Describe*

5. **Submission:**

Authorized Sponsor: Trish King, Treasurer

Primary Requestor:

Additional Requestor: *(Name, Title/Entity)*

Additional Requestor: *(Name, Title/Entity)*

Submitted By: LLIGGINS

Oneida Nation
Post Office Box 365
Phone: (920)869-2214 Oneida, WI 54155

BC Resolution # _____
Oneida Business Committee Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for Presentation to General Tribal Council

WHEREAS, the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee has the fiscal responsibility of preparing a budgetary plan for review and approval by the General Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the Budget Management and Control law ("the Law") through resolution BC-02-08-17-C to establish a standardized process for putting the annual proposed budget together; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires the Oneida Business Committee, executive managers and mangers to follow the processes provided in the Law, and

WHEREAS, the Law requires that the Treasurer's office schedule, at a minimum, one (1) community input budget meeting(s) prior to December 1st of each year for the purpose of affording community members an opportunity to provide input as to what should be included in the upcoming fiscal year budget, and for any fund units to request forecast variations for the upcoming; and

WHEREAS, a community input budget meeting for the Fiscal Year 2020 budget was held on November 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer to place a community budget input meeting packet on the Oneida Business Committee agenda no later than the last Oneida Business Committee meeting in January which includes the meeting transcript, any applicable fund unit's requested forecast variations, and responses and/or recommendations by the Chief Financial Officer or any relevant managers regarding requests for forecast variations and community members' comments and considerations; and

WHEREAS, the community budget meeting packet was placed on the January 23, 2019, Oneida Business Committee meeting agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires that the Oneida Business Committee establish a priority list ranking services provided by the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee adopted resolution BC-10-24-18, '*Establishing Priority List of Services in Accordance with the Budget Management and Control Law, s. 121.5-3*'

which adopted the priority list to provide guidance to the organization and membership regarding the development of budgets and creating or revising programming; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires the Chief Financial Officer to receive, review, and compile the proposed budgets from the various fund units into the Nation's draft budget which the Chief Financial Officer shall then present to the Oneida Business Committee no later than the last Oneida Business Committee meeting in May; and

WHEREAS, in the month of May the Chief Financial Officer is also required to meet with the Oneida Business Committee to review the proposed budget and provide any recommendations for changes; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2019, the Chief Financial Officer presented and reviewed the proposed budget to the Oneida Business Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires that after the Oneida Business Committee has worked with fund unit managers and the Chief Financial Officer to compile a final draft budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council, the Oneida Business Committee approve, by resolution, the final draft budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council by the end of July each year; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall be presented to the Oneida Business Committee for adoption at the July 17, 2019, special Oneida Business Committee meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Law requires that after the Oneida Business Committee approves the final draft budget, the Treasurer shall hold, at a minimum, two (2) community informational meetings to present the contents of the final draft budget that will be presented to the General Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has tentatively scheduled two community information meetings for the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget on September 9, 2019, and September 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee and Oneida fund units have therefore met the requirements of the Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Oneida Business Committee has reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget of $495,900,878 and approves the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council for consideration at the September 16, 2019, General Tribal Council meeting.

Oneida Nation
Oneida Business Committee
Legislative Operating Committee
PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365
Oneida-nsn.gov

Statement of Effect

Oneida Business Committee Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for Presentation to General Tribal Council

Summary

Through this resolution the Oneida Business Committee approves the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget of $495,900,878 to be presented to the General Tribal Council for consideration.

Submitted by: Clorissa N. Santiago, Staff Attorney, Legislative Reference Office
Date: July 11, 2019

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Office

The Budget Management and Control law ("the Law") was adopted for the purpose of setting forth the requirements to be followed by the Oneida Business Committee and Oneida fund units when preparing the budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council for approval. *[1 O.C. 121.1-1]*.

The Law contains various requirements for the Oneida Business Committee and the Oneida fund units including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Treasurer's office is required to schedule at least one (1) community budget input meeting prior to December 1st of each year for the purpose of affording community members an opportunity to provide input as to what should be included in the upcoming fiscal year budget, and for any fund units to request forecast variations for the upcoming *[1 O.C. 121.5-2]*;
- The Treasurer is required to work with the Chief Financial Officer to place a community budget input meeting packet on the OBC agenda no later than the last OBC meeting in January *[1 O.C. 121.5-2(d)]*;
- The Oneida Business Committee is required to create a priority list of services, to be approved by resolution no later than the last meeting in February *[1 O.C. 121.5-3(b)]*;
- The Chief Financial Officer is delegated the responsibility to receive, review, and compile the proposed budgets from the fund units into the Nation's draft budget which the Chief Financial Officer shall then present to the Oneida Business Committee no later than the last Oneida Business Committee meeting in May *[1 O.C. 121.5-4(b)];*
- The Chief Financial Officer is also required to meet with the Oneida Business Committee to review the proposed budget and provide any recommendations for changes in the month of May *[1 O.C. 121.5-6]*;
- The Oneida Business Committee shall approve by resolution, the final draft budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council by the end of July each year *[1 O.C. 121.5-7]*;
- Once the Oneida Business Committee has approved the final draft budget, the Treasurer shall hold, at a minimum, two (2) community informational meetings to present the contents of the final draft budget that will be presented to the General Tribal Council *[1 O.C. 121.5-8]*.

A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

This resolution demonstrates that the Oneida Business Committee and Oneida fund units have met the above stated requirements of the Law.

Additionally, the Law requires the Oneida Business Committee to present the budget to the General Tribal Council with a request for adoption by resolution no later than September 30th of each year. *[1 O.C. 121.5-9]*. In accordance with the Law, this resolution provides that the Oneida Business Committee has reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget of $495,900,878 and approves the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget to be presented to the General Tribal Council on September 16, 2019.

Conclusion

Adoption of this resolution would not conflict with any of the Nation's laws.

A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

ONEIDA

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

Appoint three (3) alternates to the Oneida Election Board - 2019 Special Election

1. Meeting Date Requested: 7 / 17 / 19

2. General Information:

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive - See instructions for the applicable laws, then choose one:

Agenda Header: Appointments

☐ Accept as Information only

☒ Action - please describe:

The Oneida Election Board needs eight (8) Alternates to help with the 2019 Special Elections held on July 2019.
Some alternates which were appointed at the July 10, 2019, regular BC meeting are no longer available.

The following individuals have been selected by the Oneida Election Board:
Beverly Anderson, Crystal Martinez, and Terry Thomas

3. Supporting Materials

☐ Report ☐ Resolution ☐ Contract

☐ Other:

1. 3.

2. 4.

☐ Business Committee signature required

4. Budget Information

☐ Budgeted - Tribal Contribution ☐ Budgeted - Grant Funded ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Submission

Authorized Sponsor / Liaison: Vicki Cornelius, Election Board Chairperson

Primary Requestor/Submitter:
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

6. Cover Memo:

Describe the purpose, background/history, and action requested:

The Oneida Election Board posted for eight (8) Alternates to help with the 2019 Special Elections scheduled to be held on July 20th, 2019. We need to fill the one (1) recused board members positions and request the other seven (7) to help for the election day, which include 2 on standby in case of an emergency, if an Alternate or board member can not work the elections.

The Election Board is asking that the three (3) Tribal Members be appointed as Election Alternates. This is so the Election Board can keep in compliance with the Oneida Election Law:

"102.4-7 The Business Committee may appoint or reappoint a sufficient number of alternates to the Election Board, as recommended by the Election Board, to assist with election day and pre-election activities."

1) Save a copy of this form for your records.

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Oneida Business Committee Travel Request

Approve the travel request - Chairman Tehassi Hill - Detroit Democratic Presidential Primary Debate -...

1. OBC Meeting Date Requested: 07 / 17 / 19 ☐ e-poll requested

2. General Information:

Event Name: Detroit Democratic Presidential Primary Debate

Event Location: Detroit, MI

Attendee(s): Tehassi Hill

Departure Date: Jul 30, 2019

Attendee(s):

Return Date: Aug 1, 2019

Attendee(s):

3. Budget Information:

☒ Funds available in individual travel budget(s)

☐ Unbudgeted

☐ Grant Funded or Reimbursed

Cost Estimate: $1500

4. Justification:

Describe the justification of this Travel Request:

My office has received an invitation to the Detroit Democratic Presidential Primary Debate in Detroit MI at the end of the month.

Please see attached invitation. Cost estimate includes hotel, airfare, baggage, taxi, and per diem. Travel details (flying vs. driving) have not yet been determined.

5. Submission

Sponsor: Tehassi Hill, Chairman

1) Save a copy of this form for your records.
2) Print this form as a *.pdf *OR* print and scan this form in as *.pdf.
3) E-mail this form and all supporting materials in a **SINGLE** *.pdf file to: BC_Agenda_Requests@oneidanation.org

Form approved by OBC on 03/25/2015

Tehassi Tasi Hill

From: DNC Debate Team <debates@dnc.org>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 10:39 AM
To: Tehassi Tasi Hill
Subject: You are invited to The Detroit Democratic Presidential Primary Debate

Tahassi Hill,
You are cordially invited to the Democratic presidential primary debate hosted

by the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Party of Michigan and CNN on Tuesday, July 30 **AND** Wednesday, July 31, 2019. This invitation is valid for both Tuesday July 30, 2019 **AND** Wednesday July 31, 2019. Please RSVP at the link below to confirm your attendance.

This invitation is not a ticket to the debate. You need to RSVP on the button below to receive your e-ticket via email. Your tickets are non-transferable. A photo ID will be required to gain access to the debate hall. ***This invitation will expire at 11:59pm on July 18, 2019. Please RSVP by this time.***

Debate Arrival Information:

The Fox Theatre
2211 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201

When: Tuesday, July 30
Doors Open: 5:00pm

AND

Wednesday, July 31
Doors Open: 5:00pm

RSVP

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee, democrats.org. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

Approve travel request in accordance with §219.6-1 - One (1) individual - 2019 Special Election -...

1. Meeting Date Requested: 07 / 17 / 19

2. General Information:

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive - See instructions for the applicable laws, then choose one:

Agenda Header: Travel Request

☐ Accept as Information only

☒ Action - please describe:

Approve travel request in accordance with §219.6-1 - One (1) individual - 2019 Special Election - Milwaukee, WI - July 19-21, 2019.

Note: Via e-poll, the BC approved five (5) individuals in accordance with §219.6-1. Due to changes in the alternates, an additional individual needs approval.

3. Supporting Materials

☐ Report ☐ Resolution ☐ Contract

☒ Other:

1. Memo
2.
3.
4.

☐ Business Committee signature required

4. Budget Information

☐ Budgeted - Tribal Contribution ☐ Budgeted - Grant Funded ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Submission

Authorized Sponsor / Liaison: Vicki Cornelius, Election Board Chairperson

Primary Requestor/Submitter: _____
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor: _____
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor: _____
Name, Title / Dept.

Oneida Nation
Oneida Election Board

MEMORANDUM

To: Tehassi Hill, BC Chairman & Lisa Summers, BC Secretary

From: Vicki Cornelius, Election Board Chairperson

Date: June 28, 2019

Subject: Request to Approve Travel for 2019 Special Election

On behalf of the Oneida Election Board, I hereby respectfully request approval for travel to the Milwaukee polling site for the 2019 Special Election scheduled for July 20, 2019.

To be in compliance with the Election Law in regards to the election process, six (6) Election Board Members (including alternates) are required, one (1) Enrollments Department staff will be there to assist in the voter registration process, and one (1) Oneida Police Officer will be there for a total of eight (8).

The request is for three (3) Election Board Members, one (1) Enrollments Department staff, and one (1) Oneida Police Officer. The other three (3) required Election Board Members will be alternates from SEOTS and will not require travel approval.

Costs will include hotel, mileage, per diem for Friday through Sunday (07/19-21/19).
Based on figures from the 2018 Special Election final report, total estimated cost is $3,000.
Funds are included in the FY-2019 budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration in regards to this matter.

PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365
oneida-nsn.gov

* NOTICE *

2019 SPECIAL ELECTION

SCHEDULED FOR:

Saturday,
July 20, 2019
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ONEIDA RIDGEVIEW PLAZA – SUITE #4
3759 West Mason Street
Oneida WI 54155

&

SEOTS
5233 West Morgan Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53220

PLEASE NOTE: MUST BE AGE 18 OR OLDER TO VOTE
PICTURE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR VOTING
NO CHILDREN ALLOWED IN VOTING AREA

ONEIDA NATION

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

General Travel Information

Name of Traveler	Kalene White			
Please list name as it appears on Travelers Driver's License or WI State ID				
	Employee #		Date of Birth	
Destination	Milwaukee, WI			
Departure date	7/19/2019		Return date	7/20/2019
Purpose of travel	2019 Special Election - Milwaukee Polling Site			
Charged GL Account	001-4273009-000-701000-000			

GSA Rate Information for the destination

Per Diem rate per day	$ 66	Lodging rate per day	$ 120

Cost Estimate Information

Description	Rate	Factor	Days/ Miles	Total
Per Diem initial travel date	$ 66	0.75	1	$ 49.50
Per Diem full day at destination	$ 0	1.00	0	$ 0.00
Per Diem return travel date	$ 66.00	0.75	1	$ 49.50
Subtract included meals				$
Lodging including room rate plus taxes	$ 120		2	$ 240
Airfare	$			$ 0.00
Private Car Mileage	$ 75		1	$ 75.00
Taxi or car rental	$			$ 0.00
Luggage Fees	$			$ 0.00
Registration – accept VISA? Yes / No	$			$ 0.00
Allowable price adjustment **If travel arrangements exceed the Total Cost Estimate re-approval is required**				
			Total Cost Estimate	$ 414.00

I understand this advance will be deducted from my claim for reimbursement of actual travel expenses. I also understand that if this advance in not cleared within 10 calendar days after my travel return date, I shall be held responsible for the full amount advanced and that I may be reprimanded in accordance with the Personal Policies and Procedures for my failure to clear this matter within the time so allotted. Further, in the event that the advance payment is not cleared within 10 calendar days of my return, and I have not filed a formal written dispute as to the amount due, by signing below, I am hereby making a knowing and voluntary wage deduction for the entire amount outstanding.

Signatures / Approvals

	Signature	Date	Contact Phone #
Traveler	Kalene White	7/11/2019	
Program Director	Vicki Cornelius	7/11/2019	Not needed
General Manager			Not needed

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter regarding the US Fish and Wildlife Service Proposed Rule:...

1. Meeting Date Requested: 07 / 17 / 19

2. General Information:

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive - See instructions for the applicable laws, then choose one:

Agenda Header: New Business

☐ Accept as Information only

☒ Action - please describe:

Review attached letter and support the Chairman signing.

RE:**The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.**

3. Supporting Materials

☐ Report ☐ Resolution ☒ Contract

☒ Other:

1. Letter
3.
2.
4.

☐ Business Committee signature required

4. Budget Information

☐ Budgeted - Tribal Contribution ☐ Budgeted - Grant Funded ☐ Unbudgeted

5. Submission

Authorized Sponsor / Liaison: Tehassi Hill, Chairman

Primary Requestor/Submitter: Danelle Wilson, Assistant to Chairman
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

6. Cover Memo:

Describe the purpose, background/history, and action requested:

The Chairman's office received the attached letter requesting support from Oneida Nation opposing the removal of the Gray Wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

Requested action: Approve Chairman Hill to sign the letter on behalf of the Oneida Business Committee.

1) Save a copy of this form for your records.

2) Print this form as a *.pdf *OR* print and scan this form in as *.pdf.

3) E-mail this form and all supporting materials in a **SINGLE** *.pdf file to: BC_Agenda_Requests@oneidanation.org

Oneida Nation
Oneida Business Committee
PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365
oneida-nsn.gov

ONEIDA

July 11, 2019

RE: The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

The Oneida Nation, one of the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, makes this submission to oppose the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)/Department of Interior (DOI) proposed rule to remove Endangered Species Act protections from the gray wolf.

The Oneida Nation is a member of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and stands in solidarity with other sovereign nations of that body which oppose gray wolf delisting. The United Tribes of Michigan passed a resolution opposing gray wolf delisting that accurately reflects the sentiments of many tribes in the Great Lakes region.

The gray wolf is sacred to the Oneida people, and has a prominent place in our cultural practices. Though this submission is not the appropriate forum to elaborate on our ceremonies or lifeways, the fact that one of our principal clans is the Wolf Clan indicates the significance of this sacred being. The Wolf Clan represents the path finders. Their responsibility is to guide the people to live their lives in the way the Creator intended. If the gray wolf is taken to the brink of extinction by removing federal protections, the impact this will have upon the Wolf Clan - and by extension our entire societal structure - will cause irreparable harm and infringe upon our ability to freely practice or religion.

The primary responsibility of the Faithkeepers is to ensure that our four sacred ceremonies are conducted and preserved. Our ceremonies follow the cycle of the seasons and are held within, and to foster, harmony and balance. In its lifeway, the gray wolf brings balance to the ecosystem. Wolves regulate the behavior of elk and deer populations, keeping herds from overgrazing. This allows trees to grow in greater abundance, grasses to grow taller, and other animals down the food chain to flourish, strengthening the resiliency of the entire ecosystem. What justification exists to upset this balance that is retained in so few places where the wolf presently exists? Are protections to be removed from wolves to satisfy trophy hunters and multinational energy corporations which covet the lands the wolf protects through its ESA status? Contrary to what "big game" trophy hunting organizations are professing, that "wolves are destroying hunting traditions," wolves are preserving environmental balance. Our people are subsistence hunters; we thrived in a symbiotic compact of reciprocity with all that sustained us. That is a hunting tradition, not a killing tradition.

As it did when attempting to delist the sacred grizzly bear from the ESA, the Trump Administration is contravening the federal-Indian trust responsibility by disregarding its obligation to initiate government-to-government consultation with impacted tribal nations over the delisting of the gray wolf. The Oneida Nation has not been consulted on the proposed gray wolf delisting. FWS and DOI must acknowledge that G2G consultation must not only be "thorough" and "meaningful" as mandated by EO 13175, but it must adhere to the standard of free, prior and informed consent. In 2010, the US endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) but has yet to honor that commitment. This proposed delisting of the gray wolf triggers Articles 25 and 26 of UNDRIP.

DRAFT
DRAFT

As was demonstrated throughout the Trump Administration's attempt to delist the grizzly bear, the delisting of the gray wolf and the conduct of FWS and DOI in the process, threatens harm to tribal sovereignty, undermines treaty rights, and puts the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in jeopardy, leaving tribes' religious and spiritual freedoms vulnerable. Respecting our rights and upholding its fiduciary obligation to the Oneida Nation and all tribal nations is not optional for this administration. Our treaties and the rights protected therein are enshrined in Article VI of the US Constitution.

FWS estimates that only 6,000 gray wolves still survive on a fraction of their historical range. In three out of the nine states where gray wolves exist (Wyoming, Montana and Idaho), at least 3,500 wolves have been killed by trophy hunters and trappers in under a decade. The gray wolf is functionally extinct in much of its pre-contact range. Extinction is a potential consequence of this delisting proposal. During the Obama Administration, FWS published documents exploring indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), what it describes as "Native Science" gained "over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment." Indigenous TEK was used in the decision to list the polar bear under the in ESA, but since 2016 no effort has been made to seek and implement TEK in policies that relate to species of immense culturally significance to tribal nations. Our perspective on gray wolf delisting is supported by the five experts the FWS engaged to review its proposed gray wolf delisting rule. One of the biologists, Professor Daniel MacNulty of Utah State University, stated that the gray wolf delisting rule contained "demonstrable errors of fact, interpretation, and logic."

In conclusion, FWS's proposed rule to remove federal protections from the gray wolf is arbitrary and capricious.

Respectfully,

Tehassi Tasi Hill, Chairman
Oneida Nation

DRAFT
DRAFT