

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Post Office Box 365



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.

Phone: (414) 869-2214



Oneida, WI 54155



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

A PROCLAMATION

Resolution #BC- 08-05-98-B

Subject: Support for the Consideration of Superfund Designation of the Fox River

WHEREAS, the Oneida General Tribal Council is the duly recognized governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the General Tribal Council has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section I of the Oneida Tribal Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Business Committee may be delegated duties and responsibilities by the Oneida General Tribal Council and is at all times subject to the review powers of the Oneida General Tribal Council, and

WHEREAS, from about 1957 to 1971, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, were released into the Fox River by some area paper mills as a result of the production and recycling of carbonless paper, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress banned the manufacture of PCBs in 1976 because they are a group of toxic chemicals that persist in the environment, are a known carcinogen to fish and wildlife, and are a probable carcinogen to humans, and

WHEREAS, about 125 tons of PCBs have been released into the Fox River, of which about 40 tons remain, contaminating 11 million cubic yards of sediment, and

WHEREAS, about 600 additional pounds of PCBs in the Fox River migrate into Green Bay and out into Lake Michigan where they are virtually irretrievable, and

WHEREAS, since 1976 there have been fish consumption advisories in place for the Fox River, Green Bay and its tributaries, some of which are located on the Oneida Nation Reservation, because of the serious threat to fish, wildlife and humans caused by PCBs in the environment, and

WHEREAS, since 1976 there have been numerous unsuccessful attempts at a voluntary cleanup plan for the Fox River, and

WHEREAS, because of damages caused to wildlife and the ecosystem on the Oneida Nation Reservation, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin in 1996, became a trustee in the ongoing Natural Resources Damages Assessment conducted pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 11, to assess natural resource damages at the site, and

WHEREAS, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin along with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in July of 1997 to provide for the coordination and cooperation of the governmental parties in addressing the release and threat of release of PCBs into the affected environment, and

WHEREAS, recent settlement talks with the potentially responsible parties for the release of the PCBs in the Fox River have yielded little results, and

WHEREAS, in July of 1998 the United States Environmental Protection Agency proposed the Fox River for the National Priorities List which would make it a national priority for cleanup under the EPA's Superfund program, and

WHEREAS, federal intervention which involves the coordination with other governmental parties has proven to be an impetus for the potentially responsible parties to come to the table to seriously discuss a negotiated settlement for the cleanup of the Fox River and its affected environment, and


WHEREAS, if needed, Superfund designation will bring in federal dollars to begin the actual cleanup, bring in EPA expertise on the cleanup of hazardous waste sites, provide mandatory public involvement and a cleaner and safer environment for the next seven generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin supports the United States Environmental Protection Agency's consideration of designating the Fox River as a national priority for cleanup under the Superfund program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin supports all ongoing efforts toward reaching a comprehensive negotiated settlement for the cleanup of the Fox River and its affected environment.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum. 7 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 5th day of August, 1998; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 members for; 0 members against, and 0 members not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.


Gary Jordan, Vice-Chairman
Oneida Business Committee