

# *Stockbridge-Munsee Community*

BAND OF THE MOHICAN INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICES

## RESOLUTION

February 5, 2013

No. 020-13

- WHEREAS, The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is a federally recognized Indian tribe governed by the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council pursuant to authority vested in the Council by a Constitution approved in November 1937;
- WHEREAS, The Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council has the authority under its Constitution and its inherent rights as a sovereign nation to act on behalf of the Community in area of economic affairs and other issues of self-governance;
- WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin is using an unusually abbreviated and expedited legislative process to adopt legislation that will make significant changes to the regulatory process in relation to ferrous metallic mining (AB-1/SB-1);
- WHEREAS, Despite the fact that there are 11 federally-recognized Indian tribes with reservations and treaty rights within the State of Wisconsin who can be impacted by mining activities and who can (and in some cases have) adopted tribal regulatory processes that impact such activities, the State has not engaged the tribes as part of this expedited legislative process;
- WHEREAS, The proposed mining bill will significantly change the regulatory environment in relation to ferrous metallic mining and deserves full consideration with adequate opportunities for public comment and input;
- WHEREAS, The proposed bill will create new laws to regulate iron mining and modify current metallic mining laws so that they only applies to nonferrous metallic mining (such as copper, gold and zinc);
- WHEREAS, The proposed bill was requested by a mining company, Gogebic Taconite, who wants to develop a large-scale iron mine in Ashland and Iron Counties to mine an ore deposit that has sulfide deposits and, as such, is more prone to problems with acid mine drainage;
- WHEREAS, The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is concerned about numerous aspects of the proposed mining bill, including the relatively short permitting timelines for what can be massive projects, the roll-back of financial protections for local communities, and the removal of the right of citizens to bring suits challenging the permitting process for ferrous metallic mines; and

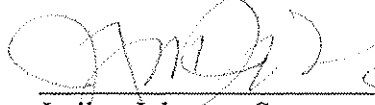
WHEREAS, The Stockbridge-Munsee Community is deeply concerned about the roll-back of environmental protections such as those related to water pollution as well as for wetlands and groundwater since such environmental issues can impact tribal lands and the exercise of tribal treaty rights.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Tribal Council of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community opposes the expedited legislative process being used in relation to the consideration of AB-1/SB-1 (2013-2014 Wisconsin Legislature), a bill that makes changes to the regulation of ferrous metallic mining in State of Wisconsin. As this bill will result in the roll-back of environmental and community protections, the Tribal Council is very concerned about the approach taken in this legislation and therefore opposes the adoption of AB-1/SB-1.

### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Council is composed of 7 members, of whom 7, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, and held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

  
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Robert Chicks, President

  
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Jerilyn Johnson, Secretary