



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Honorable Phyllis Tousey, Chair
Brothertown Indian Nation
Post Office Box 2206
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54936-2206

Dear Chair Tousey:

I am pleased to extend my support for the Brothertown Indian Nation's efforts to restore its federally recognized status with the United States through federal legislation, joining the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Oneida Nation, the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe, and Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors in supporting this effort.

On October 18, 2019, I issued Executive Order #50 declaring Indigenous Peoples Day in the state of Wisconsin. This Order noted that Wisconsin is home to eleven federally recognized nations and one federally unrecognized nation, the Brothertown Indian Nation. The Order goes on to acknowledge the "historic, cultural, and contemporary significance" of all Indigenous peoples, including the Brothertown Indian Nation.

For generations, the Brothertown Indian Nation enjoyed the same relationship with the United States as the eleven federally recognized Indigenous Nations in the state of Wisconsin, specifically including recognition in the federal Treaty of October 27, 1832, after the Nation had relocated to Wisconsin. However, the United States Congress enacted legislation in 1839 to distribute Brothertown reservation lands to tribal members, make tribal members citizens of the United States, and direct that the Nation shall lose its power to act as a sovereign entity. In 2012, the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, concluded that the 1839 legislation terminated the Brothertown Indian Nation, meaning that the Department of the Interior lacks authority to affirm or restore the Nation's relationship with the United States. As a result, only Congress can restore the United States' federal relationship with the Nation, which they have done for many other Indigenous governments that were subjected to the shameful termination policy.

Despite the wrongdoings of the past and the impact it has had on the Brothertown Indian Nation, the Nation remains vibrant today. I offer my full support of the Brothertown Indian Nation's effort to secure federal legislation to restore their recognized relationship with the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation