



5 October 2022

Representative Grothman
1427 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grothman,

I'm writing in support of the restoration of the relationship between the United States and the Brothertown Indian Nation and request that the United States Congress enact special legislation to do so as it has done with the majority of other Indian tribes that had been previously terminated.

Menasha has a rich heritage of Native Americans residing in the area including Menominee, Fox, and Ho-Chunk Nation (Winnebago) before settlement by Europeans. The term "Menasha" is a Native American term meaning "settlement on the island". In fact, in 1634 Jean Nicolet met 5,000 members of the Winnebago Tribe in Menasha. Our heritage and recognition of the Native American People that lived in the Lake Winnebago region are important to us.

It is of concern that the Brothertown Indian Nation is not recognized by the United States government because of special legislation in 1839, when just a few years earlier in 1832 they were recognized and a reservation established for them by treaty. Even so, the Brothertown Indian Nation has maintained its tribal identity since its termination and many of its members remain today in Calumet County and Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Today, the Brothertown Indian Nation, its members, and its history, are still known to the local community, which maintains a respectful and cooperative relationship with the Nation. They continue to maintain a Community Center and office that serves as a base of economic activities and tribal government.

Granting United States recognition to the Brothertown Indian Nation will correct an injustice and preserve this important part of Wisconsin and United States history.

Sincerely,

Donald Merkes, Mayor