

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

Dear Chair Tousey,

I am writing in support of your efforts to regain the federally recognized status of the Brothertown Indian Nation with the United States through congressional legislation.

As I have documented in my book, *Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal*, because the Brothertown were terminated by an act of Congress in 1839, an act of Congress must restore them.

As a scholar of Native American history, I believe that it is important to understand the desperation that Brothertown tribal members felt in the 1830s. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 created a climate of fear and anxiety for Native people, as they watched tens of thousands of Native Americans forcibly removed from their homelands. The Brothertown believed they were acting in their best interests by accepting citizenship, a move that robbed them of their status with the United States government. However, the Brothertown Indian Nation continued to act as a nation—its tribal structures intact. Its members never forgot their identities as BIN citizens or their struggle for federal recognition.

Thank you for allowing me to support the efforts of the Brothertown Indian Nation towards full recognition. It is time to right a grievous wrong.

Thank you,



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