



**from Six Bands of the Anishinaabeg Territory Watersheds
and Waters of Lake Superior:**

**Bad River Band of Lake Superior, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du
Flambeau Band, St. Croix Band, Mole Lake Band, Lac Courte Oreilles Band**

October 1, 2015

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PERMANENT ADOPTION OF Wis. Stat. § 801.54

Clerk of Supreme Court
Attn: Deputy Clerk-Rules
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688
Via E-Mail (clerk@wicourts.gov) and U.S. Mail

Dear Chief Justice Roggensack and Associate Justices:

On behalf of the Chippewa Federation, I am writing to support the statement submitted by the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association regarding the Rule Petition 07-11C In the Matter of the Review of the Discretionary Transfer of Cases to Tribal Court.

The Chippewa Federation is comprised of and governed by the Tribal Councils of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Sokaogon, and St. Croix Bands of Ojibwe, or "Chippewa" Indians. Each Band is a federally recognized Tribe, and is a Sovereign Nation within the United States of America. Each of our Ojibwe Bands has a Tribal Court that in turn is represented within the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association (WTJA). The Chippewa Federation, like the WTJA, supports the continued recognition of Wis. Stat. § 801.54 in its current form.

The Chippewa Federation was born out of the need to preserve the collective sovereignty and self-determination of the six federally recognized Ojibwe Bands that preceded the existence of the state of Wisconsin. Our Tribal Courts and our tribal child support agencies enhance the quality of life of our members by providing services in our areas and respecting the languages and traditions of our members and descendants. Wis. Stat. § 801.54 has facilitated the smooth transfer of cases to Tribal Court from State Court where

concurrent jurisdiction exists; and in the process has strengthened relationships and cooperation between Tribal and State Courts and Agencies.

The Chippewa Federation urges the permanent adoption of Wis. Stat. § 801.54 as it has been a successful procedural rule and been a positive for the citizens of our Nations and the State of Wisconsin.

Miigwech,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan J. Bainbridge". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bryan J. Bainbridge
Chairman, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Representing:

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe

Lac du Flambeau Band Lake Superior Chippewa

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin