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Red Cliff Tribal Council

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

October 2, 2015

RE: In the Matter of the Review of the Discretionary Transfer of Cases to Tribal Court – a public hearing to review the operation of Wis. Stat. § 801.54

Dear Chief Justice Roggensack and Associate Justices:

The Red Cliff Tribal Council appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the Court relaying the positive experiences our Tribe has had with the application of Wis. Stat. § 801.54 . Along with the positive relationship the Tribe has with Bayfield County Circuit Court, its staff, and the Bayfield County Child Support Agency; the Tribe has witnessed the success of Courts and Agencies working together for the smooth transfer of jurisdiction.

Red Cliff Tribal Council and the Red Cliff Child Support Services Agency would like to recognize the individual collegial working relationships developed in this process: with Judge John P. Anderson, Bayfield County Circuit Court; Bonnie Chivers, Director Bayfield County Child Support; and Kay Cederberg and staff, Clerks of Circuit Court Bayfield County.

Working with Bayfield County, Red Cliff Child Support Services Agency documents the following transfer information from January 2015- August 2015:

84 cases in which a Motion to Transfer was made
4 cases in which an objection was made
2 cases not transferred
82 cases which were transferred

Following the transfer of some of those cases, Red Cliff Child Support Services Agency received positive calls from Tribal members and nontribal case participants and looks forward to working with our families in the coming years.

Red Cliff Tribal Council supports the continuation of Wis. Stat. § 801.54 as it is written. May the Court view the positive aspects of Red Cliff Tribal transfers as an example of the ongoing success of this process and continue to support the successful transfer mechanism put in place to guide Wisconsin circuit courts.

Sincerely,

Bryan J. Bainbridge
Chairman, Red Cliff Tribal Council