

# Oneida Nation

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Oneida, WI 54155

## **BC Resolution # 11-09-16-A Opposition to Back 40 Mine Project in Michigan**

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section 1, of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation stands with the Menominee Nation and the residents in opposition to the proposed Back Forty Mine. The location on the Menominee River is historically and culturally significant to the Menominee people due to the existence of cultural properties by way of raised agricultural fields, funerary objects, multiple mounds, burial sites, and villages and is the place of origin for the Menominee people; and
- WHEREAS,** Oneida opposes any proposed mine that has any adverse impacts on the environment, health and well-being of the people of Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** the Aquila Resource, Inc. will utilize open-pit mining for extraction and a removal process which has historically caused detrimental impacts to the water, environment, wildlife, animals, and cultural properties as demonstrated with other similar mines; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation is determined to uphold and respect our original instructions to care for and protect Mother Earth. We are instilled with the responsibility to leave this place better than we found it, to uphold the next seven generation philosophy, and to promote sustainability in our daily decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** it is well known that the impacts of mining activities are widespread and long lasting and it also well known that corrective measures must be put in place to protect the long-term interests of the people and the environment in which we live; and
- WHEREAS,** the harm this proposal will inflict on residents of both the State of Michigan and State of Wisconsin, the environment, and the tourism industry cannot be justified by the mining industry and should not be permitted; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Oneida Nation urges the State of Michigan to include the Menominee Nation and other tribes in full and early participation in "purpose and need" infrastructure permitting decisions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the State of Michigan should establish a consultation process with the Menominee Nation to make certain open communication and engagement occurs and to ensure Tribal sacred places and vital cultural resources are protected.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum; 7 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016; that the forgoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 members for, 0 members against, and 0 members not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
Lisa Summers, Tribal Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

\*According to the By-Laws, Article I, Section 1, the Chair votes "only in the case of a tie."