



United Tribes of Michigan

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Matt Wesaw, Executive Director

Committed to join forces, advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations

RESOLUTION # 06-10-30-08

Expansion of Coal-Powered Generation Plants

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan is incorporated as a Michigan Corporation, 501(C)6, under Michigan's laws, December 5, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan is governed by an approved set of By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, the official membership of United Tribes of Michigan is open to all of the twelve Federally recognized tribes located in Michigan, with a current membership of eight of the federally recognized tribes with full voting privileges as to all issues; and

WHEREAS, each general member Tribe shall have only one (1) person from the member Tribe with the authority to vote on United Tribes of Michigan matters; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for Michigan's Tribes to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, United Tribes of Michigan accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, United Tribes of Michigan has grave concerns regarding the plans for eight (8) proposed coal power plants in the State of Michigan and their impact on the health, security and general welfare of Native American citizens; and

WHEREAS, being deeply concerned with the unavoidable emissions of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases, airborne lead, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides and their

Michigan federally recognized Tribes:

Bay Mills Indian Community • Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
• Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians • Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Members:

Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community • Keweenaw Bay Indian Community • Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
• Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians • Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
• Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians • Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan • Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

direct link to ground level ozone or smog, acid rain, and their proven hazardous health effect and relationship to chronic lung disease such as asthma and emphysema; and

WHEREAS, realizing the impacts that the millions of tons of hazardous coal combustion wastes that will be generated and disposed of in Michigan landfills that are a threat to the surface and ground waters of our great State; and

WHEREAS, according the United States Environmental Protection Agency, coal plants are responsible for nearly 60% of PMN10 emissions (particles 10 microns or less in diameter); and

WHEREAS, the United States EPA finds the smallest of these particles, 2.5 microns or less in diameter, caused by burning fossil fuels and the chemical reactions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides emitted by coal-fired plants, to be the most dangerous to human health especially our elders and children; and

WHEREAS, coal plants are already a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and contributors to climate change that is likely to result in, among other things, lower water levels and an increase in invasive species in the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, contamination of lakes and streams due to mercury is known to be as a result of many coal-burning plants in this country, at levels sufficient to concentrate (and contaminate) in the food chain and cause brain damage in children; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the impacts on surface and ground waters, United Tribes of Michigan realizes the additional environmental impacts of said water discharge, and costly burdens on the infrastructure (roads, bridges, fire protection) on the communities without compensation; and

WHEREAS, such an impact on the communities and environment in and around proposed sites for coal plants will be detrimental to the tribe and States effort o recruit and retain businesses, reduce the number of green jobs for citizens, and will adversely impact existing residential and commercial property value; and

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan is not in opposition to any existing coal-fired power plants in the state of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the United Tribes of Michigan will forward to the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes copies of this resolution for distribution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the United Tribes of Michigan encourages all Michigan Tribes to adopt similar resolutions and forward them to Governor Granholm, and to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan encourages all Michigan Tribes to request from the Environmental Protection Agency technical assistance

and adequate financial resources to make appropriate government to government comments on the unprecedented eight (8) proposed coal plant projects in the State of Michigan, and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan opposes the permitting of up to eight (8) proposed coal plants by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality until such time as technical assistance and adequate resources have been provided to assure appropriate government to government consultations, and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan, while recognizing that it is not equivalent to government to government consultations, strong encourages all tribal members to participate in public hearings, comment periods, and other forums regarding proposed coal plants in the State of Michigan to ensure that unique tribal concerns are considered, and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan urges Governor Granholm and her administration to rescind or deny air permits and water permits for all new coal plants in the best interest of the health and welfare of Tribal and Michigan citizens.

