

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 034-10-13-2014

United Tribes of Michigan support for the Establishment of Cooperative Relationships Regarding International Institutions Housing Native American Human Remains, Funerary Objects and Items of Cultural Patrimony

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan 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, UTM 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, the protection of sacred sites and objects including the remains of our ancestors is of paramount concern for Tribal Nations in fulfilling our sacred duties to honor these ancestors; and

WHEREAS, the United States passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act which in its subsequent implementation has led to the establishing of many successful partnerships between Tribal Governments and museums and other institutions that have housed items of interest to the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 which contains in article 12 language that addresses these concerns about the desecration of our burial sites and human remains, and states the intentions of the United Nations Member States to work internationally to redress the past and continuing abuse of our ancestors human remains, funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony; and

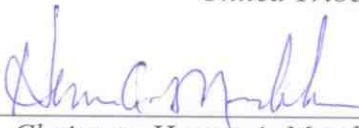
WHEREAS, tribes such as the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and other Tribal Nations have established a working relationship with the Karl May Museum of Germany and other institutions beginning a process of information that objects in their collections are not just of historical interest but also have a continuing spiritual and cultural life for the Tribes and their citizens; and

WHEREAS, these institutions have expressed a desire to have a broad showing of support from Tribal Nations and Intertribal organizations for this continued partnership work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan hereby supports member Tribes such as The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and other Tribal Nations in their efforts to repatriate from international repositories, through collaborative and diplomatic avenues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this shall be the policy of the United Tribes of Michigan until changed or rescinded by subsequent resolution.

Adopted by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on October 13, 2014.



Chairman Homer A. Mandoka
UTM President



Chairman Fred Kiogima
UTM Secretary