

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 038 10-14-15

United Tribes of Michigan Opposition to S 1879 As Introduced in the US Senate

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 US Supreme Court ruling in the case *Carcieri vs Salazar* in 2009 sharply limited the long standing authority of the Secretary of the Interior under the Indian Reorganization Act to place land in trust for Indian Tribes, bringing additional legal uncertainty to an already difficult process; and

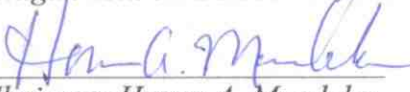
WHEREAS, several attempts have been made to pass legislation to remove this uncertainty and restore the full authority of the Secretary under the IRA; and

WHEREAS, there is wide spread support by Indian Tribes for achieving this "Carcieri Fix" by legislation. The current Congress is considering one such bill, S 1879. While much of this bill would be acceptable, it goes well beyond the "clean fix" that has the wide spread support. Specifically, introducing county governments into the land-

into-trust process is completely unacceptable, and makes this entire bill unacceptable and perhaps unfixable, without significant redrafting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United Tribes of Michigan is opposed to the passage of S 1879 as introduced which we believe would have serious unintended consequences. We call on the bill's sponsors to consider substitute language that will provide a Carcieri fix without adding new restrictions to an already difficult process.

Adopted by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on October 14, 2014.



Chairman Homer A. Mandoka
UTM President