



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE OPPOSITION TO EXPLORATORY DRILLING PERMIT BY GREEN LIGHT METALS FOR A GOLD MINE PROJECT NEAR THE DELLS OF THE EAU CLAIRE RIVER IN MARATHON COUNTY

RESOLUTION 07-12-22 C

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS,** Article I, Section 1 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") establishes the territory of the Ho-Chunk Nation, including all lands held by the Nation or the People of the Nation, or by the United States for the benefit of the Nation or the People, and any additional lands acquired by the Nation or the United States for the benefit of the Nation or the People; and
- WHEREAS,** the description of Ho-Chunk Nation territory described in Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution includes the air, water, surface, subsurface, natural resources and any interest therein held by the Nation or the People;
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution ("Constitution") gives the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature ("Legislature") the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(k) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to acquire or purchase lands for the benefit of the Nation and its members; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(l) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to manage, lease, permit, or otherwise deal with the Nation's lands, interests in lands or other assets; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(m) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to prevent the sale, disposition, or encumbrance of Ho-Chunk lands, or other Ho-Chunk assets; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(o) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to regulate and zone any lands within the jurisdiction of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and

Executive Offices

W9814 Airport Road P.O. Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615
(715) 284-9343 Fax (715) 284-3172 (800) 294-9343

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(r) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to protect and foster Ho-Chunk religious freedom, culture, language, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(s) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(w) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact laws to regulate hunting, fishing, trapping, recreation and all other related activities on lands within the Nation's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and

WHEREAS, Green Light Metals has filed an application for an exploratory drilling permit near the Dells of the Eau Claire River in Marathon County for a potential gold mine; and

WHEREAS, the Green Light Metals Project is located in former treaty territories of the Ho-Chunk Nation and, now, in close proximity to the Nation's Territory (as defined in the Constitution); and

WHEREAS, there are several potential dangers to the health, safety, and welfare of citizens, the community and natural resources that arise from the Green Light Metals Project; and

WHEREAS, there are several threats to the health of Mother Earth that arise from Green Light Metals Project which affect the abilities to practice our culture and other tribal cultures, such as: loss of traditional food resources and wildlife habitat, contamination of water and desecration of sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, there are several threats to the natural resources and the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and the community that arise from the Green Light Metals Project, such as: lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, wetlands, forests, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife; and

WHEREAS, due to the potential harms posed by the Green Light Metals Project, and in light of the Nation's sovereign right and interest in protecting its Territory and People, the Legislature deems it appropriate to adopt a position with respect to the Green Light Metals Project near the Dells of the Eau Claire River;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ho-Chunk Nation opposes the request by Green Light Metals for an exploratory drilling permit, and any future efforts to engage in gold mining near the Dells of the Eau Claire River in Marathon County.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 12 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the **12th day of July, 2022**, adopted the foregoing resolution at said meeting by an affirmative vote of **12** members, **0** opposed, and **0** abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.


Rep. Stephanie Begay, Tribal Secretary

07.12.22
Date