

7. Communication received from Nikki Bass, Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, regarding the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians petition



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** June 10, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** City Commission Meeting

**LIAISON:** N/A

**FROM:** Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** Communication received from Nikki Bass, Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, regarding the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians petition



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

May 22, 2025

Board of Commissioners  
300 Monroe Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Board of Commissioners:

The Department of the Interior (Department) gives notice that the group known as the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (GRB), a petitioner for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe, has chosen to complete the petitioning process under the current version of the acknowledgment regulations, located at Part 83 of Title 25 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (25 C.F.R. Part 83). GRB had been proceeding under the previous version of the regulations (as they existed prior to July 31, 2015). The GRB's petition number remains #146.

On May 6, 2025, the Department published notice of GRB's choice to proceed under the current regulations in the *Federal Register* (90 Fed. Reg. 19,227). The Department has also published certain information regarding GRB's documented petition, including the petition narrative, on the Office of Federal Acknowledgment's (OFA) website (<https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa>). The OFA will advise you when it begins review of the petition under the current regulations.

If you would like to submit a comment on GRB's petition, you may do so by email at [Ofa\\_Info@bia.gov](mailto:Ofa_Info@bia.gov) or by hard copy to the following address: Office of Federal Acknowledgment, United States Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. The deadline to submit a comment is September 3, 2025. Please note that OFA will publish any comments and evidence submitted by third parties to the OFA website. If you have any questions about the Federal acknowledgment process, please visit the OFA website. Alternatively, you may reach OFA by phone at (202) 513-7650 or by email at [Ofa\\_Info@bia.gov](mailto:Ofa_Info@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

Nikki Bass  
Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment