



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

7070 EAST BROADWAY

MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858

(989) 775-4059

(989) 775-4074

FAX (989) 775-4052

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 23, 2010

CONTACT: FRANK CLOUTIER, Public Relations Director

Call 989-775-4076 with any questions.

The Tribal Council of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is very pleased by the decision made today by Federal District Court Judge, Thomas Ludington to accept the settlement agreements reached earlier this month between the parties to the Boundary lawsuit with the exception of the State of Michigan District Attorney Michael Cox. Objections by the State Attorney General were heard by Judge Ludington prior to the Judge's ruling in favor of the settlement agreement. "This is a very extraordinary day for the Tribe and the Community" stated Tribal Chief Vincent Kequom Sr. Chief Kequom also stated that "this settlement clearly recognizes our Reservation boundaries and allows for greater understanding of the jurisdictional power of the Tribal Government to direct the growth and well being of our Native people".

Judge Ludington complimented everyone for their work on several agreements that will help define the future relationship between the Tribe, State, Isabella County, City of Mt. Pleasant and the federal government. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe filed suit against the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Attorney General, and the Treasurer of the State of Michigan in November of 2005 seeking recognition of the Tribes Reservation boundaries established by treaties of 1855 and 1864. The Federal Government joined with the Tribe in 2006. The City of Mt Pleasant and Isabella County joined the lawsuit on the side of the State of Michigan in 2007.

According to Chief Kequom, "the Tribe has achieved its goal: an order by the Federal Court that recognizes the Tribe's Reservation boundaries as the five and two one-half township in Isabella County as Indian country." The Tribe was able to realize its goal through settlement without the additional costs and uncertainties of litigation. The Court's order will also recognize the reservation lands in Arenac County, although this land was not in dispute and was not the subject of the lawsuit.

The settlement approved by the Court includes several agreements reached between the Tribe, State, County and City of Mt. Pleasant after nearly 20 months of intense and difficult negotiations.

According to Chief Kequom, “these agreements, together with the recognition of our boundaries will resolve many of the prior jurisdictional conflicts and finally recognize the Tribe’s rightful jurisdiction within the Reservation boundaries.

“This historic settlement brings resolution and clarity to the jurisdictional boundaries of the Saginaw Chippewa Reservation and serves the interests of the people of the state of Michigan, the County of Isabella, the City of Mt. Pleasant, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the United States,” said Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice. “This will resolve a complex patchwork of jurisdiction, and pave the way for greater coordination and communication that will strengthen public safety for all.”