

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Applauds U.S. Amicus Brief Supporting Tribe's Position On Trespass Issues Involving Trust Roads Within Reservation



LAC DU FLAMBEAU—APRIL 11 2023—The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians issued the following statement on *Pollard et al v. Johnson et al.*, case no. 3:23-cv-135 before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (the Tribe), a sovereign Native American Tribe located on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation expressed appreciation for the United States' support yesterday in addressing the trespass issues over roads located on tribal trust lands within the Reservation established by 1854 Treaty, 10 Stat. 1109 (1854).

Yesterday, the U.S. government filed an amicus brief in support of the Tribe in *Pollard et al v. Johnson et al.*, case no. 3:23-cv-135 before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing struggle to protect the Tribe's sovereign rights and preserve their territory. The U.S. government's amicus brief is in direct support of the Tribe's motion to dismiss.

The Tribe has been grappling with issues of unauthorized access to roads on their trust lands within the Reservation created by the 1854 Treaty, leading to disputes with private landowners on the Reservation. The U.S. government's amicus brief acknowledges the Tribe's rights to control and manage access to their lands in accordance with federal and tribal law.

"We are grateful for the United States' recognition of our rights as a sovereign Tribe and for their support in filing an amicus brief in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin," Tribal President John D. Johnson, Sr. said. "We are grateful the United States, who signed the 1854 Treaty acknowledging our Reservation as a permanent homeland, has shown its support by way of amicus brief. This action not only validates our efforts to protect our ancestral lands but also strengthens the relationship between our Tribe and the U.S. government."

The U.S. government's amicus brief marks an important step in the Tribe's pursuit of a fair and equitable resolution to the ongoing trespass disputes. In addition to the U.S. government's amicus brief, filed yesterday in the case, the Tribe also filed a motion to dismiss and its opposition to Plaintiffs' request for preliminary injunction.

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