



## RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI SOVEREIGNTY

**To: The Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi**

**Whereas**, Public Law 103-23, 103rd Congress, recognized the Pokagon Band as the descendant of, and political successor to the signatories of a series of treaties culminating in the Treaty of Chicago 1833 in which the Pokagon Band was the only band of Potawatomi Indians that negotiated a right to remain in the State of Michigan; and

**Whereas**, after avoiding removal from Michigan, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi continued to assert its right to sovereignty by dealing through its recognized political leaders directly with the United States Government, the government of the State of Michigan and local governments, and to carry out its governmental functions from treaty times through the 20th century; and

**Whereas**, 25 years ago, after decades of resolute effort, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi was reaffirmed as a tribal nation on September 21, 1994 when President William Clinton signed Public Law 103-23; and

**Whereas**, the Pokagon Band has brought prosperity to its tribal members and to the communities surrounding Band trust land consolidation sites in Michigan and Indiana; and

**Whereas**, the Pokagon Band has been able to regain ownership of significant amounts of its ancestral homeland in Michigan and Indiana; and

**Whereas**, the Pokagon Band was a leading force together with local municipalities in the creation of The Pokagon Fund, Inc., a private foundation funded exclusively through revenue contributed by the Pokagon Band through the operations of the Four Winds Casino Resort New Buffalo; and

**Whereas**, The Pokagon Fund has for over a decade enriched the lives of the residents in the communities surrounding Band trust land consolidation sites, including Harbor Country, Dowagiac and Hartford, Michigan and South Bend, Indiana through philanthropic awards exceeding \$25 million to support education, enhance community vitality and help those in need;

**Now, therefore**, the Board of Directors of The Pokagon Fund celebrates with and honors the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi on its 25th anniversary of federally-recognized sovereignty and its centuries of tribal life in its ancestral homelands in Michigan and Indiana. **Migwêthh**, Thank you, for all that you do to improve the lives of your tribal members and your neighbors.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of The Pokagon Fund, Inc. on Wednesday, September 18, 2019