



Pride of the Ojibwe

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PROCLAMATION HONORING THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS' HISTORIC ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is a Federally Recognized Indian Government, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. 461, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Governing Board serves as the governing body of the Tribe pursuant to Article III, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Governing Board passed Tribal Governing Board Resolution No. 2024-22 on February 12, 2024 repealing Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Code of Law GNC.4.4.060 its entirety as it relates to the civil penalties for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, effectively decriminalizing marijuana; and

WHEREAS, as of June 2024 there are 38 states plus Washington DC and four territories with marijuana legalization, including 24 states—Washington DC, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands—that have legalized adult-use marijuana, serving at least four million medical patients; and

WHEREAS, tribally-owned marijuana retail operations have increased by nearly 25% since 2023 and there are nearly 50 Tribes that own and/or operate marijuana operations across the United States, several of which are in our neighboring states of Michigan and Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Governing Board acknowledges the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (“EBCI”) as a federally recognized Indian tribe with inherent sovereign authority to make its own laws to govern activities on Tribal lands through which the EBCI Tribal Council established a system of medical marijuana with the passage of Ordinance No. 539 (2021) on August 5, 2021 and further expanded their medical marijuana ordinance to include adult-use marijuana through the passage of Ordinance No. 63 (2023) on June 6, 2024 which was amended and signed into law on June 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, elected Congressional Senators from the state of North Carolina issued a letter to several state and federal officials on March 1, 2024 urging their response and action against EBCI’s rights to govern within their sovereign authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED BY THE LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD: that the Tribal Governing Board hereby commends EBCI for their decade-long diligence in researching the potential medical benefits of marijuana and their drafting of a marijuana ordinance that establishes high quality best practices for the regulation, compliance, safety, management, operation, and harm reduction protocols of marijuana.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER PROCLAIMED BY THE LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD: that the Tribal Governing Board hereby applauds the EBCI's efforts to create a regulated market that prioritizes public health and safety while providing community engagement, workforce development, employment opportunities, and economic expansion for their community, underscoring the importance of sovereignty, self-determination, and the right of tribal nations to manage their resources and economic futures.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER PROCLAIMED BY THE LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD: that the Tribal Governing Board hereby extends its unwavering support and solidarity with EBCI in their launch of adult-use marijuana sales, as this initiative represents a significant milestone for Indigenous communities across the United States, demonstrating the potential of cannabis as a catalyst for economic development, healthcare improvement, and the assertion of tribal sovereignty.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY FINALLY PROCLAIMED BY THE LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD: that the Tribal Governing Board hereby calls upon the elected Congressional representatives from the state of North Carolina to irrevocably and unequivocally respect EBCI's inherent sovereign power of self-government and full authorization to adopt laws and regulations for the general government of their Tribe.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024.

Louis Taylor, Chairman

Tweed Shuman, Vice-Chairperson

William Trepanier, Secretary/Treasurer

Michelle Beaudin, Council Member

David Bisonette, Council Member

Don Carley, Council Member

Gary Clause, Council Member