



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Eli O. Hunt, Chairman

Linda G. Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer

District I Representative
Burton "Luke" Wilson

District II Representative
Lyman L. Losh

District III Representative
Richard Robinson, Jr.

LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 02-- 79

LEECH LAKE'S POSITION ON WILD RICE GENETIC RESEARCH AND PATENTING

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 3 of the Revised Constitution and the By-laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on March 3, 1964, empowers the Tribe "to conserve and develop Tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian Trust property, to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; (and) to preserve and maintain justice for its members"; and

WHEREAS, Article III, section 2, establishes the Tribal Council of the Leech Lake Band to serve as the governing body of the Leech Lake Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdictional authority of the Leech Lake Council extends to all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation and all Territories ceded by the Treaties of 1837 and 1855 where hunting, fishing and gathering were reserved to the Leech Lake band and its members, and;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is aware that the University of Minnesota has been researching the wild rice genome and NorCal, a private seed company has applied for a patent on a male sterile strain of wild rice and;

WHEREAS, the Division or Resource Management has advised the Leech Lake Tribal Council that continued genetic research and patenting of wild rice will be harmful to the traditional, cultural, and spiritual values of all Tribal members and the integrity of the Wild Rice plant itself, and;

WHEREAS, The Leech Lake Band has a Treaty Rights interest in the process and outcome of these issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does hereby formally request that all genetic research and patenting being conducted on wild rice be halted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Leech Lake Tribal Council directs the Leech Lake Division of Resources Management to act directly on its behalf to oversee, administer and undertake any and all necessary steps related to accomplishing these goals.

FYI

Polly



WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and adopted by a vote of 3 for, 0 against, and 0 silent at a Special meeting of the Leech Lake Tribal Council, a quorum present, held 2/28/02 at Inger, MN.

Eli O. Hunt / P.P.
Eli O. Hunt, Chairman
LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Linda G. Johnston
Linda G. Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer
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