



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

DEC 16 2021

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Governor Whitmer:

On December 7, 2021, the Department of the Interior received a letter from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians requesting a six-month extension for you to consider and respond to the Department's December 16, 2020, affirmative Secretarial Determination for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to conduct gaming on 60 acres of land in Fruitport, Michigan. After we received the Tribe's letter, the Office of Indian Gaming received a telephone call from your Legal Counsel, Mark Totten, who confirmed you do not oppose or object to an extension.

Our regulations at 25 C.F.R. § 292.23(b) provide that if the Governor does not affirmatively concur in the Secretarial Determination within one year of the date of the request, the Secretary may, at the request of the applicant Tribe or the Governor, grant an extension of up to 180 days. Accordingly, pursuant to the regulations and the Tribe's request, you are granted an extension of 180 days to June 16, 2022.

The Department understands the importance of Indian Gaming and stands behind the December 16, 2020 Secretarial Determination which found that gaming by the Tribe on the Fruitport parcel is in the best interest of the Tribe and its members and is not detrimental to the surrounding community. We understand that combatting the COVID-19 pandemic has required your full attention this past year. We hope that the additional time will allow your office time to consider this important matter.

A similar letter was sent to the Honorable Larry B. Romanelli, Tribal Ogema, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Paula Hart, Director, Office of Indian Gaming, at (202) 219-4066.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Isom-Clause  
Deputy Assistant Secretary –  
Policy and Economic Development