

RESOLUTION 72-17

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee is the duly elected governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), comprised of six member reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs and White Earth), each of which is separately recognized by the United States as an Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe provides that the purposes of the tribal organization under the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) include the conservation of tribal resources and promotion of the general welfare of members of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, water sustains all life, and the protection of clean water is high on our list of sacred responsibilities as Anishinabe people; and

WHEREAS, because manoomin, or wild rice, is also sacred to Anishinabe people, it has been recognized by the federal government as a trust resource with protections to guarantee its survival; and

WHEREAS, because all surface waters and ground waters are interconnected, even subtle changes in water quality or levels can profoundly harm the health of manoomin; and

WHEREAS, private companies have been planning several oil pipelines, underground and strip mines, and other large infrastructure projects that will cross and/or impact lands and waters where Tribal members gather wild rice and other natural resources, and where Tribal cultural resources are located; and

WHEREAS, construction of large infrastructure and large energy projects pose substantial threats to waters, natural resources and important cultural resources from disturbance during construction and permanent environmental destruction through ongoing project activities; and

WHEREAS, it is now essential for the MCT to conduct a tribal cumulative impacts analysis with input and collaboration among the MCT Bands that may be incorporated into the administrative record of an EIS to preserve legal arguments and standing; and to also serve as substantive, relevant comments for any future proposed large infrastructure project that may impact reservations, treaty lands or treaty-protected resources; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Executive Committee hereby directs that such *tribal cumulative impacts assessment* be initiated immediately to allow Bands to identify tribal natural and cultural resources that may be impacted by the large infrastructure projects; and

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 8 For, 1 Against, 1 Silent, at a Special Meeting of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum present, held on March 15, 2017 at Hinckley, Minnesota.



Kevin R. Dupuis Sr., President
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE



Melanie Benjamin, Secretary
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE