United Tribes of Michigan

5453 Hughston Rd, Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
Phone: 517-802-8650 --- Email: fettawa@charter.net

Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 098 10-16-2026

United Tribes of Michigan Request for Removal of the National Historic Preservation Act Title of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, S. 5653

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan;

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations;

WHEREAS, the inherent sovereign rights of Tribal governments are advanced within their respective constitutions and laws, and are supported within provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and subsequent international actions;

DRAFT

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans;

WHEREAS, under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq., serves as a foundational federal law protecting Native American cultural, religious, and historic resources, and requires federal agency consultation with tribes on a government-to-government basis any time a federal agency funds, permits, licenses, or carries out a project;

WHEREAS, NHPA serves as a basic mechanism to fulfill the federal trust responsibility with the federally recognized tribes of the United States by hearing from tribes to understand, consider, and decide Section 106 matters from the necessary Indigenous-led insights;

WHEREAS, the United States Senate will soon take a vote on the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026, Bill S. 5653;

WHEREAS, Bill S. 5653 contains a title that would completely overhaul the NHPA, effectively eviscerating tribal protections and compromising tribal sovereignty, including by making consultation discretionary in many instances and limiting the instances when Section 106

would apply;

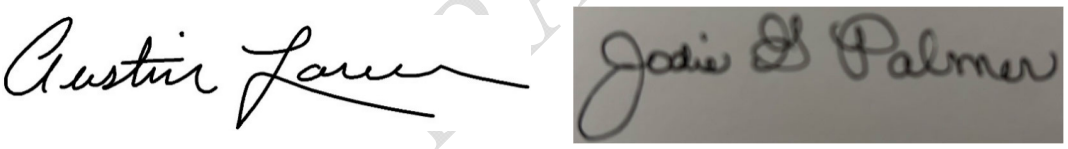
WHEREAS, Bill S. 5653 would also compromise the great protections for sacred and historical properties, landscapes, districts, structures, monuments, archeological sites, and artifacts, and even undiscovered areas, all of which hold incredible importance to all Americans in understanding and remembering who we are as a nation collectively and individually; and

WHEREAS, the federal administration has planned robust rulemaking that would address the concerns attempted by the NHPA title, which would allow proper notice and comment and an opportunity for tribes and the public to better participate and engage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that United Tribes of Michigan hereby formally requests that United States Senators work to remove the National Historic Preservation Act title from the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, S. 5653, to maintain the tribal protections and government-to-government consultation, while also allowing the agency rulemaking to ensue, which will provide a more meaningful opportunity for tribes to participate.

Adopted by a vote of __9___in favor, __0___against, __0___abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on 10-16-2026.

DRAFT



Chairman Austin Lowes
UTM President

Chairperson Jodi Palmer
UTM Secretary