

**Emmet County Lakeshore Association  
The Protection of Rights Alliance Foundation  
P.O. Box 277  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740**

**Tribe Claim for Reservation Denied by Both US District and Appeals Courts**

May 31, 2021

Dear ECLA Members and PORA Contributors,

On May 18, a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit agreed with the earlier decision of the District Court that no reservation exists for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Indians. The Appeals Court Decision was unanimous among the three-judge panel.

The Tribe filed its lawsuit in 2015 in the US District Court. The tribe sought to have most of Emmet County including Harbor Springs and Petoskey and portion of Charlevoix County declared an Indian Reservation. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the District Court judge agreed with the analysis of historical and legal experts and the position of the defendants in the case; ECLA, PORA, the State of Michigan, Emmet County and the townships, and found that the land at issue was not a reservation.

The Tribe has indicated it would like to appeal the Appeals Court decision, but at this point has no appeal of right. Any further review or appeal will need to be by permission of the court, meaning, it will need to convince a court to take the case.

Members of ECLA and early supporters of the successful legal defense effort in this important case deserve much credit and recognition. Our defense remains strong should any legal activity occur in the future.

We sincerely thank you for your support.

  
Gary Rentrop, ECLA President

  
Lou Kasischke, PORA President