

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

November 6, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chairman
Special Committee on State Tribal Relations
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairman Mursau,

I write to you about a legislative option that the Special Committee on State Tribal Relations (Committee) will consider at its meeting on November 9, 2012. However, as an initial matter I would like to again express the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC's) appreciation for the Committee's assistance in securing the passage of 2007 Wisconsin Act 27, the GLIFWC Warden bill, which provided GLIFWC law enforcement officers with the same protections afforded to other law enforcement officers. This law has helped to further integrate GLIFWC wardens into the regional law enforcement and emergency services networks of northern Wisconsin, and has helped clarify and secure their authority within that network.

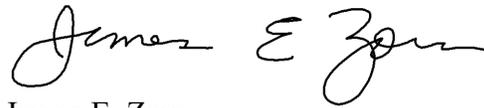
During the upcoming legislative session, I understand that the Committee is considering the development of legislation that may include authorization for GLIFWC conservation officers, by statute, to enforce state conservation laws. This statutory change would codify, and potentially expand, an existing Deputation Agreement between GLIFWC and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). That Agreement is being reviewed and negotiations are underway to update it in a number of ways. One of those potential amendments relates to the proper scope of laws that GLIFWC conservation officers would be authorized to enforce. GLIFWC believes that the scope should parallel the scope of current State warden enforcement authority. GLIFWC officers already receive the same training as State wardens, and there is no reason they should not also be authorized to enforce the same laws. As WDNR wardens and deputy wardens are automatically empowered to enforce the provisions of the tribal off-reservation conservation code, GLIFWC conservation officers should be able to enforce state conservation laws as a matter of comity.

GLIFWC looks forward to working with the Committee to explore these changes in state law, and supports the inclusion of GLIFWC conservation officers in the larger bill. I have assigned Kekek Jason Stark to assist in discussions related to this issue as the Committee's work

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moves forward. Please feel free to contact Jason (at 715-682-6619, ext. 2106) or me (at 715-682-6619, ext. 2101) at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Zorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James E. Zorn
Executive Administrator

cc: David Lovell, Senior Analyst, Joint Legislative Council
Kekek Jason Stark, GLIFWC Policy Analyst