



Aaron A. Payment, MPA
Tribal Chairperson
"Representing All Members
Everywhere"

Ahneen, Boozo, Negee:

I need your help to invoke our right of referendum to undo an action of the Tribal Board which undermines my authority as Chair. The Board voted on July 16th to change the administrative chain of command from the Health Division under the expert leadership of Health Director Bonnie Culfa (with me as her immediate supervisor) to create an added layer of bureaucracy that is simply not necessary. I see this action as an indictment of my leadership.

If it Ain't Broke,
Don't Fix It Right!?

SEPARATION OF POWERS NEEDED NOW!

POWER STRIPPING MEASURES PROVE ARBITRARY & CAPRICIOUSLY RULE

I am proud of the Health Division's efforts over the last several years. When Bonnie Culfa came to work for our Tribe as Health Director, I tasked her with increasing our 3rd Party Revenues. She successfully led the effort to raise it from \$1.5 million in 2006 to about \$7 million today! No other division of the Tribe raises revenues like this. Bonnie would be the first to tell you this is a team effort. The AAAHC and CARF accreditations recently achieved; excellent customer service scores; and improving metrics for patient visits proves that we are well on our way to success.

What did I or the Health Director do to compel the organizational chart to change? At no point did the Board explain their motivation. In fact, at the June 25th Tribal Board Meeting, I was not even allowed to speak to advocate for the Health Division Team when the Board "called for the question" and cut off all debate. To date no explanation

has been given.

Whatever the reason, we have the right as Sault Tribe Members to veto this vote via our *Sault Tribe Constitutional Right of Referendum*. Once we undo this action, it is final and binding. Thus, I am asking for you to help me secure the chain of command as it was by signing the referendum petition below. Additionally, in order to insulate the administration from any further changes to the chain of command, I am asking you to sign an additional referendum petition to compel the Board of Directors to vote on establishing a series of amendments to our Constitution which will create a clear demarcation line between that of the Tribal Legislature and that of my Administration.

Time is of essence, please sign and return these petitions as soon as you receive them to address listed below.

GIVING BACK

To the left are two photos of contributions I made recently to the Newberry and Marquette Elders. To date, I have given \$1,000 to Unit 3 (St. Ignace); \$1,000 to Unit 1 (Sault); \$1,000 to (Escanaba & Manistique); \$1,000 to Unit 5 (\$500 to Munising & \$500 to Marquette). Up next is

\$500 for Hessel and \$500 for Naubinway. I have also proudly gifted \$1,000 to our Sault Tribe Junior Police Academy, \$1,000 for Sault Tribe College Scholarships, \$1,200 for Sault Tribe Children Christmas Party, \$1,000 for the ST & Kewadin Team Member Challenge for the United Way, and \$20,000 to date for various Tribal Members in need including a half dozen fundraisers where I covered the food start up costs to ensure these events are profitable.

TRANSPARENT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT THREATENED!

Unfortunately, given a majority of the Board also voted to not fund the continuation of the "livestream" of our meetings, up to \$20,000 of my own personal funds will no longer be available for contributions so I can personally fund the continuation of our livestream which promotes transparency in government. Maybe after the 2014 Election, we will pick up a few new Board Members so we then have a majority who support an open government.

I have been working hard since you returned me to office. Besides moving nearly half of our land in trust requests off the tax rolls and saving over

\$150,000 (with \$150,000+ to go), I have secured an additional \$228,000 in treaty rights funds and collected a delinquent \$92,800 in fisheries funds. This has helped us survive the \$1.7 million we lost due to Congressional Sequestration. This was based on a 5% cut to our federal funds. In 2014, the proposed cut is another 14% or another whopping \$4.5 million for a two year total of 18.3% or \$6.2 million. I will remain party neutral here, but these votes are clearly falling on party lines.

Recently, I have been appointed to a number of Federal Boards, Councils and Commissions that will position me to try to stave off these cuts. Unfortunately, several Board members oppose allowing any support personnel to assist me with these efforts. Nonetheless, I will proceed.

Chi McGwitch, Negee,

Aaron



Personal Contributions to Elder Committee (Newberry left; Marquette right)

PETITION FOR REFERENDUM Submitted by Eligible Tribal Voters!

Article IX - Right of Referendum Reads:

Any enacted or proposed ordinance or resolution of the board of directors shall be submitted to a popular referendum upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the board or when so requested by a petition presented to the board bearing the signatures of at least one hundred (100) eligible voters of the tribe.

~ Bill of Rights, Sault Ste. Marie, Tribe of Chippewa Indians Constitution

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, ARE ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS AND ARE REQUESTING A REFERENDUM ON: "Membership Votes on Constitutional Amendments"

Proposed on July 16, 2013

Signatures of Eligible Voters

SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP DATE

1

2

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WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, ARE ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF THE SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS AND ARE REQUESTING A REFERENDUM ON: "Realignment of Management Authority: Health Administration"

Proposed on July 16, 2013

Signatures of Eligible Voters

SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP DATE

1

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PLEASE RETURN COMPLETE OR PARTIALLY COMPLETED PETITIONS TO: **Aaron A. Payment, 1716 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**