

To Grand Traverse Band Citizens on the Presidential Certification  
From Tribal Chairman David Arroyo

The violent insurrection and takeover of the Capitol while a joint Congressional Session of Presidential vote certification was in process sent a chill of horror, sadness, fear, anger and recognition that all governments can fail.

The United States Federal Government is the embodiment of our collective history –its disappointments, aspirations, faith, and reconciliations that we are one country governed by law and stability with foreseeable processes to resolve our collective differences. Mob violence is the opposite.

As images of distress, destruction streamed and screamed across our platforms, a tribal member asked me whether our Tribe was prepared for the consequences of continuing civil unrest. I want to assure Tribal members that GTB has established Memoranda of Understanding and partnerships with local, state and federal agencies to respond to emergencies, with the Michigan State Police, Sheriff Departments, Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board (17 Counties and 3 Tribes: Grand Traverse Band, Little River Band, Little Traverse Bay Band) and state and federal agencies to coordinate emergency response and tribal procedures in case of any martial law. GTB Tribal Police will continue to be vigilant and available throughout any type of civil unrest event regardless of its cause or nature. We will use any and all resources available to us through our many partnerships throughout the region as well as the nation to ensure as safely as possible that any situation would remain civil and peaceful.

Therefore, this is a plea to all citizens—federal, state and tribal—to follow the rule of law. Indian tribes know that the consequences of the failure to follow the rule of law are devastating to all. The Presidential Election is over; the Insurrection failed; Certification of President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris is final.

We are all in this together; let's all work together and resolve our differences in a respectful and civil manner; never should we ever see our fellow citizens acting as an out of control mob rampaging through the buildings of government, nor should we support governmental representatives who support or excuse that mob and that false and malicious narrative the mob uses for its election grievances.

