

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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November 21, 2012

Chairman Chris McGeshick
Sokaogon Chippewa Community
3051 Sand Lake Road
Crandon, WI 54520

Re: *Lac Courte Oreilles Indians v. State of Wisconsin* –Tribal Night Hunting Regulations/Commission Order 2012-05

Dear Chairman McGeshick:

On November 21, 2012, the Attorney General, on behalf of the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, filed the attached “Notice of Motion and Motion to Enforce the Judgment” with the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin (the Court). While I recognize that the six Plaintiff Ojibwe Bands (Tribes) involved in *Voigt* case (*Lac Courte Oreilles Indians v. State of Wis.*, 775 F. Supp. 321(W.D. Wis. 1991) have taken the position that they have the authority to issue—and indeed have issued on November 21, 2012—the “GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION ORDER, Order No. 2012-05” (Commission Order, I respectfully ask that the Tribes refrain from implementation and issuance of permits under the authority of the Commission Order until such time as the Tribes and the State have the opportunity to argue the case in front of the Court.

With an issue as important and potentially contentious as this to the Tribes and the State, prudence dictates, and the *Voigt* case envisioned, that we ensure that issues of this magnitude be clarified by the Court before potentially subjecting Tribal members, the public, and our respective law enforcement officers to an uncoordinated and precipitous Tribal night hunt of deer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cathy Stepp'.

Cathy Stepp
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources