



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
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December 13, 2017

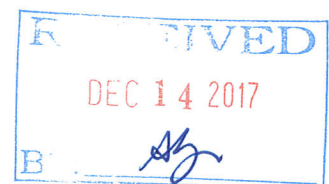
The Grand Traverse Band of
Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49682

Dear Tribal Leaders:

I am writing to inform you that, after 22 years with the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan, I have decided to leave the office. My last day will be December 22. Please know that the decision was not easy to make. I have enjoyed my work tremendously, especially my work with the Tribes in the Western District. The United States Attorney's Office has always supported my work in Indian Country, be it the prosecution of cases or liaison matters. I know this Office will continue to work on a government-to-government basis on Indian Country issues. Indian Country issues will remain a priority in the Western District. The Office will continue to treat Tribes with the respect and candor that all sovereigns deserve. Rest assured, that relationship will continue.

In January, I will be joining the law firm Barnes & Thornburg, LLP in the Grand Rapids office. I will be in their litigation department, but will continue to focus my practice on Indian Country issues, both in Michigan and nationwide. After December 22nd, I can be reached at (616) 648-8186.

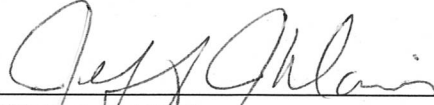
As I have said throughout my time here, "I love Indian Country." My most memorable experiences are when I have been able to spend time in your communities. As I reflect on my years here, I think I enjoyed it so much because each Tribal community was so welcoming to me and my family. I will remember these 22 years as an AUSA (most of my legal career) with great fondness and sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for allowing me to get to know you and your Tribe, especially those precious elders that are so important to each one of your



communities. My family and I have made many friends throughout these years that I will continue to cherish. For this I say sincerely- Chi Migwetch.

Baamaapii miinwaa giigawaabaamaan,

ANDREW BYERLY BIRGE
United States Attorney

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff J. Davis", written over a horizontal line.

JEFF J. DAVIS
Assistant United States Attorney