

## **Wixárika Regional Council For the Defense of Wirikuta**

Declaration of Brotherhood and Support to Indigenous Leadership regarding the “Sacred Hikuri-Peyote” for Indigenous Tribes of the United States of North America organized as: the “National Council of Native American Churches” (NCNAC) and the “Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative” (IPCI).

*Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Tuxpan de Bolaños, Jalisco, Mexico.*

**The Wixárika Regional Council for the Defense of Wirikuta** is made up of the Traditional, Civil and Agrarian Authorities of the Communities of the Banks of San Hipólito, municipality of Mezquital, Durango, Santa Catarina Cuexcomatlán municipality of Mezquitic and San Sebastián Teponahuatlán and Tuxpan of the municipalities of Mezquitic and Bolaños, Jalisco; Mexico.

Since 2011, due to the threat of mining and agroindustrial exploitation in our sacred territory "Wirikuta" and demand for respect and preservation of our sacred plant called "Hikuri"; the traditional and agrarian authorities of our main communities in Mexico have established an alliance of fraternity and mutual support with the representatives of the indigenous tribes of the United States of America. Namely, the Native Church of North America, Canada and Mexico called the "Native American Church of North America, Canada and Mexico (NACNA)" and the Native Church of Navajoland "Azze Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation (ABNDN)".

We have continued to cultivate this fraternal relationship to date with their new conservation initiative, the “Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI)” which includes both NACNA and ABNDN and of which we support each other in our unified efforts of conservation and protection of peyote and the sacred territories where it grows and reproduces.

**As such, these organizations are the only ones with whom we have a formal and historical relationship of agreements for the issues mentioned above.**

Recently, we learned on social media of a non-indigenous organization in the United States of America called "Decriminalize Nature". It mentions that the “Wixárika” communities are part of and have an official representation before such a movement with its objectives and goals. Given this, the agrarian and traditional authorities that make up the Wixárika Regional Council for the defense of Wirikuta, we pronounce as follows:

- 1. The Wixárika Regional Council for the Defense of Wirikuta does not have a formal representation in matters of politics in the United States of America, nor in any matter related to the theme of our brother “Hikuri-Peyote”. Only**

**with the National Council of the Native Church of North America and the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative.**

- 2. This pronouncement specifically supports the efforts of the indigenous brothers of North America through its "National Council of Native American Churches" and the "Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative."**
- 3. We support, in unity and fraternal solidarity, the conservation strategies of peyote that best suit their interests, including declarations on the laws and regulations of the United States of America or any of its municipalities. Knowing the historical effort that indigenous peoples have had to fight for centuries to exercise our rights of use and customs and to manage to preserve the legacy that our ancestors inherited from us.**
- 4. It is important that non-indigenous people respect and recognize the need for indigenous leadership to direct, develop and report on efforts related to this medicine, especially when any action, project or policy efforts may affect its conservation, sacred territories or access for indigenous peyote practitioners.**
- 5. We support the pronouncement made by our indigenous brothers through their national organization (NCNAC), who have respectfully demonstrated before "Decriminalize Nature"; demanding that decriminalization efforts in local communities in the United States do NOT explicitly mention peyote in any list of plants and fungi in their local initiatives.**
- 6. We expressly affirm the position adopted by them, and we support them in their ideas to avoid new efforts that could unintentionally threaten our peyote and the traditions that depend on it, both in the United States and in Mexico.**
- 7. We also respectfully demand that all efforts of Policy, Legal and Decriminalization in the United States, and all other associated persons or organizations, do not refer to the Wixarika Nation as supporters of any of its initiatives or promotional materials.**

Sincerely,

Traditional and Agricultural Authorities of the Wixárika People

Wixárika Regional Council for the Defense of Wirikuta

**WIRIKUTA IS NOT SOLD, LOVES AND DEFENDS HIMSELF!**