

Monday, February 7, 2022

## **Letter of Clarification and Reaffirmation**

### **Wixarika regional council for the defense of Wirikuta.**

Letter of reaffirmation of ties of brotherhood and solidarity support for the conservation of the ancestral territories of "hikuri" - peyote, with our native brothers of the United States of North America and Canada (IPCI), formed by the National Council of Native Churches of North America member of the IPCI board of directors.

Arlen Lightfoot, President of the Oklahoma Native Church.

Sandor Ironrope, Representative of the South Dakota Native Church.

Steven Benally, Representative of the "Azee Bee Nahagha of the Dine Nation" Organization.

Andrew Tso, Dine Nation of Arizona.

### **Mission, Vision and Purpose:**

**Mission:** Empower indigenous communities to preserve and regenerate their sacred peyote medicine for spiritual use, for generations to come.

**Vision:** We promote the health, well-being, and cultural revitalization of native communities through the reconnection, sovereign use, and sustainability of sacred peyote and the lands on which it grows.

**Purpose:** IPCI is an indigenous-led, land-based initiative that directly addresses ecological, cultural, and access issues related to the sustainability of the sacrament of peyote. The IPCI engages in various biocultural strategies for the spiritual reconnection and restoration of peyote, including land access and stewardship, youth education, peyote cultivation, and a spiritually and culturally sound harvesting and distribution system. . It is an international collaboration that supports tributes and efforts focused on the sustainability and indigenous sovereignty of peyote in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The Wixarika Regional Council for the Defense of Sacred Places, made up of the Traditional, Cultural, Civil and Agrarian Authorities of the Communities of Banks of San Hipolito, municipality of Mezquital Durango, Santa Catarina Cuexcomatitla, municipality of Mezquitic and San Sebastián Teponahuaxtlan and Tuxpan from Bolaños, Jalisco; MEXICO.

**To our Indigenous brothers who use the sacred Peyote in the United States and Canada:**

To the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI):

It is not new that through time in history, the indigenous families, peoples or tribes that inhabit the American continent, have established a firm posture of resistance and organized struggle against the models of destruction and abuse of nature that ignore our ancestral relationship with the life on the planet that sustains us. Here in Mexico we have been fighting for 10 years against a Canadian mining company that wants to extract minerals from the subsoil of our sacred place Wirikuta in San Luis Potosi, home of our hearts and our ancestors.

Knowing that you as tribes have received atrocities against your families, both the theft of their sacred territories by the dominant capitalist models and that you have parallel notable achievements such as the legal recognition of the ceremonial use of our sacred "tuu-tu"-peyote, for the congress of the united states of north america; We decided to seek alliances with you brothers and your legitimate and original indigenous organizations since 2011.

To date we have planted ourselves firmly in the defense of our sacred territories, giving them life with the practice of the continuity of the traditional customs of our grandfathers and grandmothers, and thus with that primordial and priority base we have risen up to give an organized response to the defense of our sacred territories. This is how the "Wixarika Regional Council for the Defense of Sacred Places" was born.

Our cyclical ceremonial occupations are complex and numerous, the geographical regions where we live are far from the main cities of our country and are difficult to access. This relative isolation makes us live at a different daily pace that the official institutions in most cases do not understand and make us have support that does not fit our way of seeing life or we do not receive it. And neither does it allow us to find out about the realities that our native brothers from the north live with, with whom we share the bond of the ceremonial use of peyote.

**That is why we wish to give a word of brotherhood, solidarity, above all sincere to clarify the following important points:**

1.- We are in solidarity and support with the indigenous organizations of the United States, Canada and other countries, who are fighting to defend life, especially their territories and sacred places, which are essential elements to keep alive their collective and historical memory of our ancestors.

2.- Any message prior to this position was created due to the confusion created by the California organization called Decrimenature and other parallel external influences, whose goals are alien to ours.

3.- In the unity of our indigenous peoples is the strength for the conservation of our sacred territories and our older brother "tuu-tu" - peyote.

4.- The Wixrika regional council for the defense of Wirikuta, we are in the process of becoming part of the board of directors of the indigenous peyote conservation initiative, a lasting and sincere brotherhood, above all in good faith.

5.- The Wixarika regional council for the defense of sacred places, we designate as our liaison in the board of directors of the IPCI, representing us as Mexic, brother C. Javier Ignacio Martinez Sanchez, who we fully trust to carry out the coordination efforts between the Wixarika regional council for the defense of sacred places and IPCI.

8.- We will participate in bilateral meetings between our indigenous organizations, whether in Mexico, the United States, Canada or in another Latin American country, as required.

9.- Validity of the present, December 2023.

Sincerely,

Traditional, Cultural, Civil and Agrarian authorities of the Wixarika people.

Cultural representatives, traditional Governors, Commissioners of Communal Assets.

Wixarika Regional Council for the defense of sacred places.

Wirikuta is not for sale, he loves and defends himself!