

**Iron County Board of Commissioners
RESOLUTION**

Iron County Support of the Ojibway Correctional Facility

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC) has announced That the Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) in Marenisco Township, which is in Gogebic County, will be closed effective December 1, 2018.

WHEREAS, the Ojibway Correctional Facility is one of many historical examples of where a U.P. county stepped up to help the State of Michigan by agreeing to place a prison in their area despite local resident opposition;

WHEREAS, the OCF has been one of the most effectively operated prison facilities among the DOC facilities; and

WHEREAS, OCF employs approximately 210 employees, and the payroll of those employees has a large economic impact, over \$55 million, in the County, as well as significant future impact on overcrowding of its county jail; and

WHEREAS, one of the factors used to determine which facility would be closed was the distance that family has to travel to visit their loved ones at OCF; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections has Upper Peninsula prison inmates within the system, scattered throughout the DOC facilities; and

WHEREAS, if one of the factors in determining the OCF closure was distance to visit inmates, then obviously Upper Peninsula Facilities should be utilized for housing of Upper Michigan inmates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Iron County Board of Commissioners strongly favors the continued operation of the Ojibway Correctional Facility in Marenisco Township, Gogebic County Michigan, as a vital facility for the DOC and housing unit for Upper Peninsula prison inmates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that before any future Upper Peninsula prison is proposed for closure including the Ojibway Prison, an independent economic impact analysis must be conducted and funded by the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan shall also be required to provide adequate financial resources and economic aid and a facility re-use plan to mitigate the economic impact, loss of jobs, loss of local tax revenues and subsequent overcrowding of local county jails.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to U.P. Legislators, Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Department of Corrections Director, and all U.P. Counties.

Commissioner PATTI PERETTO offered the resolution that was supported by

Commissioner RAY COATES and the resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Aho, Brennan, Coates, Leonoff, Peretto

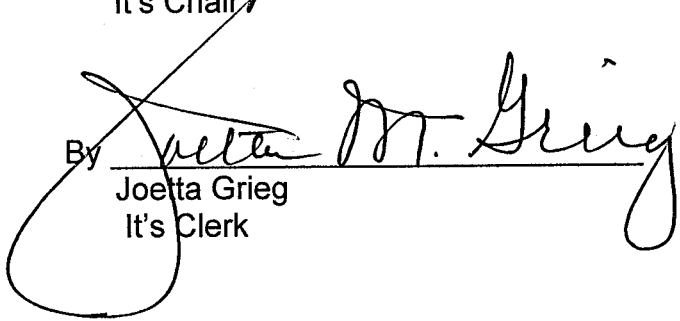
Nays: None

Absent: None

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of the County of Iron on October 16, 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF IRON**

By 
Timothy P. Aho
It's Chair

By 
Joetta Grieg
It's Clerk

