

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

BUSINESS COMMITTEE



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

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COMMENTS REGARDING WLC: 0055/1

AN ACT TO ALLOW TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM

January 18, 2007

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin provides the following comments regarding proposed legislation relating to participation of tribal law enforcement officers in the Wisconsin Retirement System.

The Oneida Tribe recently confronted the expensive problem of having the Oneida Police Department serve as a training ground for police officers. It was understandable that many of these officers would receive training from the Tribe and then leave the Oneida Police Department to join local or county police departments in order to enjoy the state retirement benefits available through those jurisdictions. However, the Oneida Tribe did not want to continue losing well-trained officers to surrounding communities. To combat that problem, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the Public Safety Officer Pension Plan on December 21, 2005. The Public Safety Officer Pension Plan is modeled after the Wisconsin Retirement System; it will provide pension benefits to eligible Oneida law enforcement officers.

Although the Oneida Tribe has been able to address this problem and reward its dedicated law enforcement officers with a Tribally-developed retirement system, there are Wisconsin tribes who still struggle with the expense and frustration of losing officers soon after providing all of the officers' training. Therefore, the Oneida Tribe hopes that the proposed legislation discussed today will enable Wisconsin tribes to retain their trained officers for many years of dedicated service.

Respectfully,


Vince DeLaRosa
Oneida Councilman