



HO-CHUNK NATION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Oconomowoc School Board President's remarks on burial mounds raise concern

The Ho-Chunk Nation remains strongly and unconditionally opposed to the desecration of any known or believed to be known ancient burials and sacred sites. We understand that Wisconsin maintains a rich history of indigenous inhabitants and the treasured earthworks left behind deserve their protection and preservation. These sites are the final resting places of ancestors before us that should as well, remain undisturbed and respected.

The recent comments from Oconomowoc School Board President, Donald Wiemer ["Bones won't stop us from building,"] grossly predispose a clear disregard the potential of unearthing human remains. While the presence of such remains is unconfirmed to date, there are laws, policies, and non-invasive procedures in place to identify and protect the integrity of potential sites.

The Ho-Chunk Nation believe the best approach to protect sacred sites is through education which has been very effective for decision-makers to take under consideration when a grave decision is before them. "We choose to work toward solutions but will not compromise our responsibility to protect these sites" said Ho-Chunk Nation President Wilfrid Cleveland. "I invite the School Board and interested district residents to collaborate with our Heritage Preservation and Cultural Resources officials to gain a better understanding of these historic areas and the laws that govern their protection."

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