

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY DECLARATION

Verdigris Botanica Tribe

P.O. Box 15

Muldraugh, KY 40155

November 23, 2024

We, the members of the Verdigris Botanica Tribe, in recognition of our inherent, sovereign rights as a federally recognized tribe, do hereby declare and affirm the sovereignty of our people, government, and legal system. This declaration asserts our tribe's authority to govern ourselves, manage our lands and resources, and exercise jurisdiction over our members, free from external interference by state or federal authorities, except where explicitly provided by federal law.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Verdigris Botanica Tribe is a sovereign nation, recognized by the United States government as a federally recognized tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.), and further supported by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq.), and other relevant legal authorities;

WHEREAS, we affirm that the Verdigris Botanica Tribe possesses inherent powers of self-governance and authority to enact laws, manage resources, and adjudicate disputes involving our people, lands, and affairs within our jurisdiction, as recognized by the Indian Civil Rights Act (25 U.S.C. § 1301 et seq.) and other relevant statutory provisions;

WHEREAS, we recognize that the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently upheld the rights of Native nations to maintain their autonomy and sovereignty, as evidenced by the landmark decision in *Worcester v. Georgia* (31 U.S. 515, 1832) and subsequent cases that affirm the ability of tribes to self-govern and exercise authority over their citizens and territories;

WHEREAS, our sovereignty is further reinforced by the Tribal-State Compacting authority under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) (25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq.) and other federal laws that acknowledge tribal self-governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the governing body of the Verdigris Botanica Tribe, do solemnly declare the following:

DECLARATION OF SOVEREIGNTY

- 1. Inherent Sovereignty:** As a sovereign nation, the Verdigris Botanica Tribe possesses full jurisdiction over its members and its lands, including all rights to make and enforce laws, regulate commerce, and adjudicate disputes involving its members without interference from state or federal authorities unless explicitly mandated by federal law.
- 2. Self-Governance:** We recognize and affirm our right to manage our internal affairs, including governance, education, health, criminal justice, family law, and economic development, without external interference. This includes the right to determine our membership criteria and the protections and benefits afforded to our citizens.
- 3. Jurisdiction:** The Verdigris Botanica Tribe asserts jurisdiction over all matters involving its members, both within tribal lands and in any other jurisdiction where the tribe's members reside, subject to limitations imposed by federal law.
- 4. Recognition of Rights and Protections:** As a sovereign nation, the Verdigris Botanica Tribe is entitled to the full protections of its citizens under federal law, including but not limited to the Indian Civil

Rights Act (25 U.S.C. § 1301), Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. § 1901 et seq.), and other relevant statutory protections that affirm the rights of tribal members.

5. **Federal Recognition and Support:** This declaration is made in accordance with the principles of self-determination and is consistent with the U.S. government's recognition of tribal sovereignty. We call for the continued support and protection of our sovereignty through full implementation of federal laws that respect the inherent rights of tribal nations.

CALL TO ACTION

We further call upon the United States and relevant state authorities to recognize and honor our jurisdiction, and to engage with our government in a manner that respects our sovereignty as guaranteed by the United States Constitution and upheld by established legal precedents.

Through the principles and affirmations set forth herein, we illustrate our steadfast commitment to self-determination, governance, and our rights as a tribal nation.

By the authority of the governing body of the Verdigris Botanica Tribe, this declaration affirms our sovereign right to self-governance, independence, and jurisdiction.

REPRESENTATION

Respectfully Submitted,

Alaina Padgett
Chairperson, Verdigris Botanica Tribe
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KEY SOURCES FOR SOVEREIGNTY

1. Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq.)
 2. Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq.)
 3. Indian Civil Rights Act (25 U.S.C. § 1301 et seq.)
 4. *Worcester v. Georgia* (31 U.S. 515, 1832)
 5. Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) (25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq.)
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