

## **New bill paves the way for Ho-Chunk Nation and Mission Road**

Governor Doyle signed a new bill that will allow municipalities or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to transfer roads to Native American Tribes. This bill enables tribal roads divisions to make needed repairs to the roads that lead to their communities.

“Mission Road was the road that drove this bill being initiated,” said Ho-Chunk Nation President Wilfrid Cleveland, “we wanted Mission Road turned over to the Ho-Chunk Nation but we needed this legislation passed before we could make the transfer.”

Mission Road, just north of Hwy 54, is listed in the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program Inventory. The Indian Reservation Roads are public roads which provide access to and within Indian reservations, Indian trust land, restricted Indian land, and Alaska native villages. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, only roads on the Indian Reservation Roads Program Inventory are eligible to be transferred.

IRR funds can be used for any type Title 23 transportation project providing access to or within Federal or Indian lands and may be used for the State/local matching share for apportioned Federal-aid Highway Funds.

“Our next step will be to set up a meeting with the BIA to begin the transfer of Mission Road to the Ho-Chunk Nation,” said Ho-Chunk Nation Transportation Planner Jon Schrader.

“Mission Road has been a high priority for us for quite some time. We appreciate Senator Kathleen Vinehout and Rep. Mark Radcliffe in helping us move this legislation along toward our goal in providing safer roads for our Town of Brockway residents,” President Cleveland added.

*Governor Doyle signs SB287 into law as tribal and state representatives observe.*



*Pictured left to right:  
Chairman Louis Taylor, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe  
Legislative Attorney Scott Sussman, Ho-Chunk Nation  
Buck Martin, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans  
President Kimberly Vele, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans  
Joel Nilsestuen, Office of Senator Vinehout  
President Wilfrid Cleveland, Ho-Chunk Nation*

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