

## PRESS RELEASE

To: All Media  
From: Brenda Turunen, d/b/a Ma Hog Farm  
Re: Right to Farm  
Date: April 8, 2013

Brenda Turunen of Ma Hog Farm announced today that she has filed suit in federal court against the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

Recently, the MDNR supported by MDARD declared certain breeds of pig to be "invasive species". That decision forced Ms. Turunen to bring the federal lawsuit. Through skilled animal husbandry she and her spouse have developed the "Hogan Hog", a breed of pig able to withstand the harsh winters of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Hogan Hog is in demand locally, statewide and nationally for its moderate temperament, hardiness, tasty meat, and its outward resemblance to the wild Eurasian boar of North and Central Europe. Ironically, that resemblance has led to this legal confrontation since physical appearance is all the MDNR and MDARD deem necessary to declare that even highly domesticated pigs like the Hogan Hog are illegal and that their owners are criminals.

Ms. Turunen is a Native American and a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC). She is also a member of the Copper Country Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee. She is deeply troubled that she has to resort to a federal lawsuit to protect her right to farm: "I have always believed that every American has the right to farm, a right that should be protected and promoted by the government. It is disturbing to watch these state agencies attack farmers, trying to make them into criminals. I feel sorry for the farmers of Michigan who have to deal with such agencies and I thank God that my right to farm is protected by the 1842 Treaty."

Ms. Turunen has been farming her land in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan for 23 years pursuant to rights reserved in the 1842 Treaty with the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. KBIC, which has licensed her farming operation, supports her struggle. According to KBIC Tribal Council President Chris Swartz: "Historically, whenever Indian people succeed the government moves to destroy what they have created. For centuries the whiteman tried to turn us into farmers and it worked. Brenda Turunen is a successful farmer and now finds herself the latest target of the state's hostility towards Indian rights. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is behind her 100% as she fights to protect her farm and her way of life. We are confident she will win because our

ancestors had the foresight to guarantee us the right to farm when they negotiated the 1842 Treaty."

Ms. Turunen's Attorney, Joseph P. O'Leary, agrees. "Whether Brenda chooses to market squash, peas, cattle, hairy hogs or raw milk, she has a federally protected right to do so. That right is subject only to the reasonable regulations of the United States or the tribe itself." Said O'Leary.