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February 8, 2021

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

As Regional Director of ADL Michigan -- an organization devoted to securing fair and just treatment for all -- I would like to raise serious concerns about the anti-Asian rhetoric contained in the resolution entitled "A resolution concerning the virus of 2019" -- identified as action item number 16 (Great Barrington Declaration Resolution) of the February 9, 2021 Leelanau County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Referring to COVID-19 as the "Wuhan Virus of 2019" is deeply offensive, stigmatizing, and harmful. Such anti-Asian, xenophobic rhetoric has no place in Leelanau county.

Last year, multiple ADL reports reflected a surge xenophobic and racist incidents, misinformation and scapegoating targeting members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Racist, xenophobic rhetoric can have deeply harmful effects.

On behalf of ADL, I urge you to clearly reject a resolution containing such anti-Asian, xenophobic rhetoric.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter, I can be reached at [cnormandin@adl.or](mailto:cnormandin@adl.or) 248-672-8831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn J. Normandin".

Carolyn Normandin  
Regional Director