

# Midwest Environmental A D V O C A T E S

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Skunk Hill Nominated for Inclusion on National Register of Historic Places**

Madison, Wisconsin. Today the Wisconsin Historical Society nominated Skunk Hill to the National Register of Historic Places, helping to provide greater recognition and protection for the site. Located in Wood County, Skunk Hill is a site that is sacred to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Ho Chunk Nation, and other tribes.

“This nomination formally acknowledges its sacred and historical significance, which deserves protection.” stated Carol Brown, attorney for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and partner in Brown & LaCounte.

Skunk Hill, or *B<sup>^</sup>pwa kik* as it is known to the Potawatomi, is located in Wood County’s Powers Bluff Park in central Wisconsin. For many generations, the Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk have lived there, gathered medicine and performed tribal ceremonies.

The site has been the center of controversy over the past two years, as community members have challenged Wood County Parks & Forestry officials’ management of the park. Tribal and community members have been at odds with the County’s practices of cutting trees, and encouraging winter skiing and sledding near the sacred sites. The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has been represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. and Brown and LaCounte in their continuing efforts to obtain permanent protections for Skunk Hill’s sacred sites and unique ecosystem.

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About the parties:

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation currently resides on a 121 square miles in Jackson County, Kansas. Tribal membership totals nearly 5,000.

Midwest Environmental Advocates is Wisconsin’s first and only non-profit environmental law center that provides legal and technical services to community organizations, non-profits, and local and tribal governments.

Brown & LaCounte, LLP, is a full service Indian-owned law firm serving tribal governments nationwide.