#### In The Matter Of:

ACF LEASING, LLC, et al., vs.
GREEN BAY RENEWABLE ENERGY, LLC, et al.

# REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS October 8, 2014

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### ACF LEASING, LLC, et al., vs. GREEN BAY RENEWABLE ENERGY, LLC, et al.

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    STATE OF ILLINOIS)
                        88.
    COUNTY OF C O O K)
       IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
              COUNTY DEPARTMENT - LAW DIVISION
    ACF LEASING, LLC; ACF
    SERVICES, LLC; and GENERATION
    CLEAN FUELS, LLC,
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                   Plaintiffs,
                                       No. 14 L 2768
                   VS.
    GREEN BAY RENEWABLE ENERGY.
    LLC; ONEIDA SEVEN GENERATIONS
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    CORPORATION; and THE ONEIDA
    TRIBE OF INDIANS OF
11
    WISCONSIN,
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                   Defendants.
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              REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS at the hearing
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    of the above-entitled case before the HONORABLE
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    MARGARET ANN BRENNAN, Judge of said Court, on
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    October 8, 2014, at 12 p.m.
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                   The Oneida Tribe of Indians of
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                   Wisconsin.
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     CSR License No. 084-003278.
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THE COURT: Okay. Why don't we begin with 2 the motions concerning sovereign immunity. I think that's the easiest way to start here. MR. DOMBROWSKI: Morning, your Honor. 4 5 Jerry Dombrowski for the plaintiffs. THE COURT: Okay. 6 MR. PYPER: Tom Pyper for the Oneida Tribe and Oneida Seven Generations Corporation. THE COURT: I don't know if I disclosed this earlier to all of you. Although I have not spoken with her in any way, shape or form about this, 12 I do have a friend of mine who is an administrative 13 assistant for the tribal council up in Presque Isle. 14 I don't know if that -- I haven't talked to her in 15 months. Actually, we grew up next to each other. 16 We still talk to each other. It's just we've been 17 so busy, we honestly have not spoken to each other 18 in months. It just happens. I don't know if --19 she's in Presque Isle and she works for the council up there, Northern Wisconsin. MR. DOMBROWSKI: I'm okay with that. 21 THE COURT: Okay. I didn't think it would 22 23 be a problem.

MR. PYPER: No, it probably would not be --

24

- THE COURT: I know Ojibwa would be near
- 2 the Hayward area. I'm trying to think.
- 3 MR. PYPER: There's Bad River. The Bad
- 4 River tribe is up there.
- 5 THE COURT: That might be it. It's the
- 6 council -- it's several tribes. She does a lot in
- 7 Wisconsin.
- 8 MR. PYPER: It could be GLIFWC, which is
- 9 the -- I never know what the acronym is.
- THE COURT: She's Boulder Junction,
- 11 Presque Isle and up, but she's been all throughout
- 12 Wisconsin dealing with various issues that are
- 13 affecting a number of --
- MR. PYPER: I'll bet she's with GLIFWC.
- THE COURT: Okay. Well, see, and I knew
- 16 so little that you can see it really isn't going
- 17 to have an impact. Okay. So let's begin with the
- 18 motion to dismiss.
- MR. PYPER: Thank you, your Honor.
- 20 I think that the material operative facts are really
- 21 pretty straightforward and not much in dispute. The
- 22 Oneida tribe is a federally registered Indian tribe
- 23 and Oneida Seven Gens is a tribally chartered
- 24 corporation. The tribe is a governmental agency.

- 1 It has a whole variety of services it provides
- 2 to its over 16,000 members, housing, elderly care,
- 3 everything typical that a government would do. In
- 4 order to diversify from its gaming operations, it
- 5 created Oneida Seven Generations Corporation under
- 6 tribal charter law, and it is an entity that manages
- 7 over 13 individual businesses and has created other
- 8 entities so as to keep its business activities
- 9 separate from the tribe; although if it generates
- 10 more profits than it needs for its operating
- 11 expenses, some of those profits will spill over
- 12 into the tribe. But it has its own assets, its
- 13 own businesses that are separate and distinct from
- 14 the tribes.
- 15 It created Oneida Energy to
- 16 start diversifying into -- to have corporations
- 17 separate from itself to start diversifying into
- 18 the energy development business. And Oneida Energy
- 19 then in turn created Oneida Blocker, which then
- 20 created Green Bay Renewable Corporation, and Green
- 21 Bay Renewable is not a tribally chartered entity.
- 22 It's a Delaware LLC.
- Green Bay Renewable had as its
- 24 president Kevin Cornelius from January 2012 through

- 1 August 2013, which is really the distinct period of
- 2 time that's applicable to the case. Mr. Cornelius
- 3 also was the CEO of Oneida Seven Generations. While
- 4 Mr. Cornelius was a member of the tribe, he was one
- 5 of over 16,000 members of the tribe. He held no
- 6 official position with the tribe at any time material
- 7 to this case. Bruce King was the vice president and
- 8 treasurer of Green Bay Renewable. He also was the
- 9 CFO of Oneida Seven Gens. Just like Mr. Cornelius,
- 10 he was a member of the tribe but he held no official
- 11 position at any time with the tribal entity itself.
- Mr. King and Mr. Cornelius started
- 13 talking with the principals of ACF about going into
- 14 the energy development business, which is the reason
- 15 that GBRE was created, and it was a plastic waste
- 16 to oil with also an energy generation component
- 17 with it through a pyrolysis analysis. And they
- 18 negotiated with ACF about how they would structure
- 19 it, who would get what money. And in January, in
- 20 fact, ACF principals came up and made a presentation
- 21 to the business committee of the tribe and to OSG's
- 22 board to give them a general description of how the
- 23 technology would work that was being negotiated
- 24 between GBRE and ACF.

1	No official action took place
2	at those meetings. No official action was requested
3	to be taken by either the business committee of the
4	tribe or OSGC. It was an informational presentation.
5	The tribe is - as a governmental agency it has a
6	legislative branch and the legislative branch is the
7	general tribal council. The general tribal council
8	is made up of every member of voting age of the
9	tribe. So we're talking about thousands of people
10	on that legislative branch of the general tribal
11	council.
12	Between January and May there
13	were some dissatisfactions starting to boil under
14	with regard to whether this was an appropriate type
15	of an activity to be taking place on tribal land.
16	There were some cultural push-backs about it related
17	to questions as to whether this would create an
18	unacceptable level of air pollution.
19	So in early May, May 5, there was a
20	meeting of the general tribal council where there was
21	a vote taken that this process if it were in fact -
22	became a real project between GBRE and ACF would not
23	take place on tribal land. It was voted it could not
24	take place on tribal land. As a result, on

- 1 May 24 the operative agreements were executed;
- 2 one was a master lease, the other was an operation
- 3 and maintenance agreement. Kevin Cornelius signed
- 4 those on behalf of GBRE. He did not sign on behalf
- 5 of the tribe. He did not sign on behalf of OSGC.
- 6 The project was then designated to take place in a
- 7 location in Monona, Wisconsin and in a place in
- 8 Sheboygan, Michigan off reservation property.
- 9 Nonetheless, there was also some
- 10 still dissatisfaction starting to even boil over
- 11 farther, and that became known to the ACF entities.
- 12 On August 13 of 2013 the ACF entities wrote a letter
- 13 to OSGC saying that it was asking for OSGC's support
- 14 for the project, and in that letter the ACF entity
- 15 said we want your support for the project with which
- 16 we are partnering with GBRE. Did not say it was
- 17 a project with OSGC, certainly did not say it was
- 18 a project with the tribe. It was strictly we are
- 19 partnering with GBRE.
- Eventually in December there was
- 21 another meeting of the general tribal council and
- 22 because of issues unrelated to this project, there
- 23 was a vote to dissolve OSGC. When that happened,
- 24 then there was some concern about the funding

- 1 or the funder of the GBRE project. There was no
- 2 vote taken to dissolve GBRE and GBRE has not been
- 3 dissolved. It is still a corporate entity -- or LLC
- 4 under Delaware law. The operative agreements said
- 5 they would not become effective unless and until GBRE
- 6 obtained its funding for the project because that's
- 7 where the capital was going to come from. This is
- 8 \$21 million worth of capitalization for this project.
- 9 It was to be capitalized or funded by Wisconsin
- 10 Bank & Trust. When WBT heard that -- and, excuse me.
- 11 It was funded by WBT, but it had to be guaranteed by
- 12 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and WBT had a request
- 13 in for the guarantee approval for BIA.
- When WBT heard that OSGC was to be
- 15 dissolved, it created a lot of uncertainty for WBT.
- 16 So it withdrew its request to have the BIA guarantee
- 17 the loan and it wasn't going to make the loan unless
- 18 that guarantee was in place. So, in fact, the
- 19 agreements never really became effective because they
- 20 couldn't become effective until such time as GBRE
- 21 received its funding. When ACF heard that the OSGC
- 22 was to be dissolved and the request for guarantee
- 23 was withdrawn, that's when ACF started the lawsuit.
- The lawsuit brought claims for breach

- 1 of contract in a variety of claims, intentional
- 2 interference claims both with existing contract
- 3 rights as well as prospective business relationships,
- 4 and it also brought a claim for unjust enrichment.
- 5 Those claims are suspect because the operative
- 6 agreements never really became effective and, quite
- 7 frankly, I don't understand unjust enrichment because
- 8 no project ever took place and my clients have never
- 9 received any benefits from the negotiation.
- But for purposes of the motion
- 11 we brought, we are assuming that the contracts
- 12 are in play here and we brought a motion to dismiss
- 13 based on the sovereign immunity rights of both of
- 14 my clients. In order to get around the sovereign
- 15 immunity issue -- and by the way, in our first brief
- 16 we argued at length in the Breakthrough Management
- 17 case all the factors by which OSGC would obtain
- 18 sovereign rights. I don't think it was ever disputed
- 19 that the Nation has or the tribe has sovereign
- 20 rights, and in response we didn't get any
- 21 contradiction to that. So I'm assuming that the
- 22 only issue here is not whether both my clients have
- 23 sovereign immunity but, in fact, whether it has been
- 24 waived.

1	In order to claim waiver here
2	there are many theories that have been advanced
3	by the ACF entities. Most of them deal with
4	negotiations and alleged statements that were made
5	by Mr. King, Mr. Cornelius before the contracts were
6	executed as well as their attorney, a senior partner
7	from Kutak Rock out of Omaha, Nebraska. We got
8	declarations from all three, which put into dispute
	whether they really made those allegations, but we
10	don't think those are material to the motion that we
11	brought.
12	and the control of t
13	those statements, whether or not they made any
14	
	sovereign immunity of the tribe at OSGC, although
	those are disputed, we don't think it matters if
	they had made those for two very important reasons
	No. 1, there's an integration clause in both of these
	contracts. The integration clause is very specific.
	It says any prior representations, any negotiations
	made by anybody are all merged within the contracts
	themselves and cannot be used to argue a position
	inconsistent with what the four corners of the
24	contracts would say. These contracts were signed

- 1 by one entity and one entity only, GBRE. So those
- 2 are barred by the Parol evidence rule and they can't
- 3 be considered by the Court.
- 4 The other reason is sovereign
- 5 immunity is based on federal common law. It is
- 6 not based on underlying state -- and I'll get into it
- 7 in a minute -- piercing the corporate veil, apparent
- 8 authority principles. And under the federal common
- 9 law it is pretty clear both in the Native American
- 10 Distributing case and the World Touch Gaming case we
- 11 cited that statements made by alleged representatives
- 12 of a sovereign do not impact whether the sovereign
- 13 has, in fact, waived sovereign immunity. And both
- 14 cases stand for that position, and the reason is
- 15 really clear.
- 16 If all it took was for a contracting
- 17 party that was not paid to sue and then be able to
- 18 say, well, a representative of the sovereign made
- 19 these statements, said they were waiving sovereign
- 20 immunity and that factual dispute put into question
- 21 whether sovereign immunity had been waived, that
- 22 would require the sovereign to go through a trial
- 23 and that process alone is an infringement on the
- 24 sovereign rights of the sovereignty. So the case

- 1 law is very clear. Waiver cannot be implied.
- 2 It must be unequivocally expressed. In addition --
- 3 and that's the Santa Clara Pueblo, pretty standard
- 4 case. Also, when there is a process that is clear
- 5 and publicly available and everybody can know what
- 6 it is, in order for a sovereign to say we will waive
- 7 sovereign immunity if this process is followed, that
- 8 process must be followed.
- And here the sovereign, the
- 10 tribe has Ordinance 14.6 and it provides three
- 11 ways in which they can waive sovereign immunity; by
- 12 resolution passed upon motion of the general tribal
- 13 council, by resolution of the business committee
- 14 and for Oneida Seven Gens by a resolution passed by
- 15 the board but then only waiving Oneida Seven Gens'
- 16 sovereign immunity, not the tribal sovereign immunity
- 17 and that's detailed in the ordinance itself. And
- 18 it's undisputed here that none of those three things
- 19 took place.
- ACF knew it was dealing with GBRE,
- 21 as its August 13 letter states. All it had to do was
- 22 ask to have a waiver signed if that's what it wanted.
- 23 All it had to do was ask for Oneida Seven Gens and
- 24 the tribe to sign the contracts. If it really

- 1 believed it was negotiating with them, they would
- 2 be bound by it, but they failed to do so. So now
- 3 ACF relies on two principal theories to pierce the
- 4 corporate veil, to pierce GBRE's corporate veil,
- 5 to get through Oneida Blocker, to get through Oneida
- 6 Energy, to get to Seven Gens and bind Seven Gens
- 7 and then again to pierce the corporate veil of Seven
- 8 Gens to get to the tribe.
- First of all, the case law is
- 10 we believe clear that with regard to piercing the
- 11 corporate veil, that has never been done. That would
- 12 in essence make -- if I were to make representations
- 13 on behalf of the State of Wisconsin and my business
- 14 entity went belly up and I had not been properly
- 15 capitalized, they could allege that they could
- 16 pierce my corporate veil and get to the assets
- 17 of the sovereign.
- Piercing the corporate veil has
- 19 never been, as far as I know, applied in a federal
- 20 common law situation of sovereignty, and there were
- 21 no cases cited by ACF in the briefs where it has
- 22 ever been applied. They were all typical corporate
- 23 piercing. Under the Tower Investors case, an
- 24 Illinois appellate court case, 2007, the Court

- 1 said that when you're dealing in a contractual
- 2 relationship situation, there's even a heightened,
- 3 more heightened standard for piercing the corporate
- 4 veil because the party has chosen to contract with
- 5 a corporation. And choosing to contract with that
- 6 corporation doesn't then allow them to turn around
- 7 and say, well, I want to pierce and get to another
- 8 party. It's more frequently applied in a
- 9 noncontractual position where there has been a tort
- 10 of some kind and they want to pierce to get through
- 11 the person, the corporate entity. But even if
- 12 piercing the corporate veil did apply here, there
- 13 haven't been allegations, nor any factual showing
- 14 that that would be appropriate here.
- Under Illinois law the entity at
- 16 issue whose veil is sought to be pierced must really
- 17 be a sham entity. It must really the party needs
- 18 to show fraud, that it was only created as a fraud
- 19 to allow the principal, or the parent corporation to
- 20 conduct the parent corporation's activities through
- 21 the fraudulent sham of this corporate entity. It has
- 22 to be shown undervaluation -- or undercapitalization
- 23 and that they're really doing the business of the
- 24 corporate parent rather than their own, and that's

- 1 just not the situation here.
- 2 GBRE was going to be adequately
- 3 financed -- or capitalized by \$21 million and if
- 4 it wasn't, there would be no project. It was in
- 5 the business of doing this and it would have to be
- 6 recognized in that business for WBT to loan the money
- 7 and for BIA to guarantee the money. At all stages
- 8 throughout this the ACF entities knew they were
- 9 dealing with a tribal entity in terms of owning GBRE.
- 10 They know OSG was there and they knew GBRE actually
- 11 existed. So even if corporate -- piercing the
- 12 corporate veil applied in any respect, the elements
- 13 are not present here.
- 14 The other issue that is raised
- 15 is the apparent authority issue. Again, the
- 16 overwhelming majority of cases say apparent authority
- 17 does not apply in this federal common law area.
- 18 Now, ACF cited two cases, the Bates case and the
- 19 Hopland case where they went and did look at apparent
- 20 authority principals but those cases are factually
- 21 distinguishable. In both of those cases the actual
- 22 entity was the signatore on the contract. And
- 23 the question was, was the principal who signed it
- 24 on behalf of that entity, did he have authority in

- 1 that circumstance. Here the sovereign entity never
- 2 signed this. We don't have that circumstance.
- 3 So we don't believe apparent
- 4 authority is applicable at all in a sovereignty
- 5 situation. But if it did, again, it doesn't apply
- 6 here because you don't look at the representations
- 7 of the alleged agent. You don't look at the conduct
- 8 of the alleged agent. The apparent authority is
- 9 a top-down projection. It has to be the activities
- 10 of in this case the tribe or Seven Gens who is giving
- 11 the impression that the people below them have the
- 12 authority to do these things. Here we have a tribe
- 13 who has an ordinance in place as to the only way it
- 14 can waive sovereign immunity, and that same ordinance
- 15 applies to OSGC. They've given every appearance that
- 16 there is nobody below those entities who can waive
- 17 sovereign immunity.
- So for ACF principals -- and the
- 19 two that put in declarations here are attorneys --
- 20 to say that they reasonably relied on representations
- 21 of this apparent authority when there's no indication
- 22 that anybody at the tribe told them there was
- 23 authority or gave an appearance of authority, they
- 24 could not make the showing that they would need to

- 1 on the apparent authority issue.
- 2 So let's assume, however, that
- 3 now the corporate rule that my clients are somehow
- 4 bound to these contracts they didn't sign because
- 5 of representations of apparent authority or piercing
- 6 the corporate veil. We don't believe that gets ACF
- 7 entities anywhere because there's nothing in these
- 8 contracts that waives sovereign immunity. The only
- 9 thing in the contract upon which ACF relies is the
- 10 forum selection clause. The forum selection clause
- 11 says nothing about sovereign immunity and the only --
- 12 and there were no cases cited to the Court where
- 13 it has ever been found that a forum selection clause
- 14 is a waiver of sovereign immunity.
- The cases relied upon by ACF is the
- 16 C&L Enterprises case, which is a US Supreme Court
- 17 case. In that case it was an arbitration clause,
- 18 and in the arbitration clause there was an agreement
- 19 by the sovereign that they would arbitrate and they
- 20 would be bound by the outcome of the arbitration
- 21 award. The second case is the Altheimer & Gray
- 22 case, the 7th Circuit case. It was an arbitration
- 23 case that had the same language. On top of that it
- 24 actually said that the entity was waiving sovereign

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- 1 immunity. The third case is the Sokaogon case --
- 2 Gaming case, Judge Posner's case, where he also found
- 3 a waiver based on an arbitration clause, exactly
- 4 similar to C&L Enterprises. That is a very legally
- 5 significant difference.
- In the most recent case --
- 7 well, the Danka Funding case also, that was an
- 8 earlier case out of New Jersey, said that forum
- 9 selection clause was definitely not a waiver of
- 10 sovereign immunity. But most recently there have
- 11 been addressed in the Breakthrough Management case,
- 12 Judge Krieger gave I thought a very compelling
- 13 explanation of what the distinction is. Nobody can
- 14 make a sovereign entity, in this case my client,
- 15 the tribe or OSGC arbitrate, whereas anybody can sue
- 16 a sovereign entity. And when a sovereign entity
- 17 agrees to arbitrate, they are saying we agree that
- 18 you can have a forum to have a resolution of our
- 19 dispute and it's saying we agree that we will be
- 20 bound by the outcome of that. And that is in fact
- 21 some of the cases have said -- three relied upon by
- 22 ACF -- a waiver of sovereign immunity.
- That is a whether we can be sued
- 24 issue. A forum selection clause is only a where

- 1 we can be sued because they can't protect themselves
- 2 as to whether they can be sued. And they say, well,
- 3 if you're going to sue us, you can sue us in the
- 4 State of Illinois, but it doesn't say and we agree
- 5 you can sue us. And that was Judge Krieger's
- 6 analysis, and she distilled it down to a whether
- 7 clause or a where clause. And if it's a where
- 8 clause, forum selection, that's not a waiver. That's
- 9 not agreeing to be sued. A whether clause is in fact
- 10 that. And when that was taken up on appeal, the
- 11 court of appeals embraced that analysis but it wasn't
- 12 an issue directly in front of them. So this is the
- 13 district court, Judge Krieger.
- So we don't think even if they
- 15 get to the contract, that there's anything in that
- 16 contract that waives sovereign immunity. There
- 17 wouldn't have been any reason for there to be a
- 18 sovereign immunity waiver in the contract because
- 19 it was with GBRE, a Delaware LLC, which doesn't have
- 20 sovereign immunity. That handles the breach of
- 21 contract claim.
- The tort claims, just very briefly,
- 23 the only allegation that sovereign immunity should
- 24 not apply to the tort claims is based upon the Bay

- 1 Mills case out of 2014, US Supreme court case,
- 2 in footnote 8. And in that case the Court was not
- 3 asked to hold on it but said there we never really
- 4 addressed the issue as to if there is an injured
- 5 plaintiff who has never chosen to deal with a tribal
- 6 entity and has damages whether there are "special
- 7 justifications" that would say that sovereign
- 8 immunity should not bar such a claim in that case.
- If, in fact, that were an area to
- 10 be developed somewhere in the future, and no case
- 11 as I understand it has done that since the Bay Mills
- 12 case, there are not special justification issues
- 13 here. This isn't a situation where a person walks
- 14 into a casino owned by a sovereign and part of the
- 15 building falls on the person and they never really
- 16 chose to deal with the sovereign and now they're
- 17 injured and the sovereign raises sovereign immunity.
- 18 This is an issue where ACF knew from day one that
- 19 GBRE was a subsidiary of a tribally chartered
- 20 corporation which was owned by a tribal governmental
- 21 agency.
- They chose to enter into
- 23 this structure. They knew full well about the
- 24 sovereigns and could have suggested that they all

- 1 sign these agreements and they did not. If special
- 2 justification were ever sometime applied in a case
- 3 so as to be precedent, that special justification as
- 4 articulated by the Supreme Court in Bay Mills just
- 5 doesn't exist here.
- So we believe that there isn't
- 7 any waiver of sovereign immunity, there's nothing
- 8 to be shown, and we would ask that the case against
- 9 my client be dismissed.
- MR. DOMBROWSKI: Thank you, Judge.
- 11 Mr. Pyper did give a nice recitation of the facts,
- but 75 percent of what Mr. Pyper has stated are
- 13 closing arguments at trial that should be done in
- 14 this courtroom. Judge, first, it is their burden
- 15 right now, 2-619 motion to show that there's no
- 16 issue of material fact regarding sovereign immunity.
- 17 Judge, there's a whole host of factual issues that
- 18 cannot be decided on motion.
- Everything is intertwined here.
- 20 This is a very complex case. We have dueling
- 21 affidavits, the other side claiming that, well,
- 22 there was no sovereign immunity, even though we have
- 23 clear clauses that I'm going to talk about. These
- 24 facts are all intertwined with the subject matter

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- 1 of jurisdiction here and there's no possible way
- 2 I submit that this court can grant their motion and
- 3 cut loose OSGC and the Oneida tribe because of this
- 4 circumstance. These facts are this case. These
- 5 facts are trial issues that cannot be decided here.
- 6 They have not met their burden in that regard, Judge.
- 7 Before we talk about the
- 8 Solargenix case we first must state, Judge, is
- 9 sovereign immunity really available for OSGC and
- 10 the tribe. The Bay Mills case, not only footnote 8
- 11 but throughout the case, seems to cast significant
- 12 doubt whether in this particular case where you have
- 13 a breach of contract and three tort victims whether
- 14 sovereign immunity actually applies. The Bay Mills
- 15 court this year took great pains to state if you're
- 16 a tort victim and you have no other remedy, we're not
- 17 deciding that. We're not saying there is sovereign
- 18 immunity and cast significant doubt on it. And if
- 19 you go, delve into the facts of the Bay Mills case,
- 20 that was the State of Michigan stating to a tribe
- 21 in Michigan you are operating an illegal casino.
- 22 Instead of going to other avenues, such as injunction
- 23 or suing the individuals who set up the illegal
- 24 casino or pursuing them criminally, they went

- 1 straight to sue.
- 2 Here, Judge, if you cut loose on
- 3 this motion where there's an abundance of questions
- 4 of fact, cut loose OSGC and the tribe, we are left
- 5 with GBRE only, a shell created for the particular
- 6 purpose created by the tribe, created by OSGC to
- 7 engage in energy projects. We would be a victim
- 8 without a remedy.
- 9 Moving forward, Judge, if you do
- 10 believe sovereign immunity is available to OSGC,
- 11 we must go to the specific wording of the choice
- 12 of law of venues provisions that both sides agreed
- 13 to. Both sides had attorneys. Both sides came to
- 14 Evanston, Illinois where we are based, negotiated
- 15 these contracts. And this has nothing to do with
- 16 Parol evidence, Judge. We're just responding to
- 17 their 2-619 motion. We have to bring in these facts.
- 18 It says in bold and capital letters
- 19 in the contract signed by Kevin Cornelius, OSGC's
- 20 CEO, "This agreement shall be deemed to be made in
- 21 Illinois and shall be governed by and construed in
- 22 accordance with Illinois law. Lessee and lessor" --
- 23 that's all of us -- "agree that all legal actions
- 24 in connection with this agreement shall take place

- 1 in federal or state courts situated in Cook County,
- 2 Illinois." That's why we're here, Judge. That's
- 3 why we filed suit.
- 4 The operation and maintenance
- 5 agreement, paragraph 15 specifically states,
- 6 "Any disputes pertaining to this agreement shall
- 7 be determined exclusively in a court of competent
- 8 jurisdiction in the County of Cook, State of
- 9 Illinois." Any disputes, Judge. That means
- 10 breach of contract. That means intentional torts.
- 11 We are in the right courtroom. We have the right
- 12 defendants.
- Not only did OSGC, GBRE and
- 14 the tribe breach the contracts, but separately and
- 15 distinctly OSGC and the tribe committed an abundance
- 16 of torts which we have laid out in our very long
- 17 complaint. They couldn't be more clear. And as to
- 18 Mr. Pyper's argument, well, these choice of law and
- 19 choice of venue provisions don't mention sovereign
- 20 immunity, the Supreme Court says you don't have to.
- 21 And if you look at the Supreme Court decisions and
- 22 the 7th Circuit decisions, those are arbitration
- 23 decisions stating you must arbitrate.
- We're not even saying that. We're

- 1 saying you have a fair shot in Cook County, Illinois.
- 2 Bring your facts to the table. We will try this case
- 3 in Cook County. And they agreed to that, Judge.
- 4 Both sides agreed to it. Both sides had attorneys.
- 5 Both sides negotiated this contract for months and
- 6 months. You don't need to mention the words
- 7 sovereign immunity to waive sovereign immunity.
- 8 Those aren't my words. Those in essence are the
- 9 words of the US Supreme Court. If you look to the
- 10 pleadings and the affidavits, Judge, again, there's
- 11 no way that this motion, this particular subject
- 12 matter motion can be granted. We haven't even been
- 13 to discovery yet, Judge. There's more facts coming.
- As to the Solargenix case,
- 15 which came out August 1, 2014, Judge, emanating
- 16 from this division within this courthouse, two
- 17 Spanish defendants asserted that you can't bring me
- 18 to Cook County because I didn't sign the contract.
- 19 This is what the tribe and OSGC are saying. Well,
- 20 I didn't sign this contract. How can you possibly
- 21 bring me here. Well, the Solargenix court said,
- 22 yes, even though you didn't sign the contract,
- 23 even though you're over 4,000 miles away, you must
- 24 come to Cook County, Illinois and defend this case

- 1 because that's what your subsidiary agreed to.
- The Solargenix wording is quite
- 3 similar to our wording. They mention disputes.
- 4 They mention Cook County. They mention competent
- 5 court of jurisdiction. The Court says and the
- 6 7th Circuit said in Hugel, H-u-g-e-l, that you can't
- 7 ask someone who is closely related to the action step
- 8 back and say I didn't sign that, you can't bring me
- 9 to Cook County.
- Now, in the Hugel case, which
- 11 was decided in 1990, the 7th Circuit affirmed it,
- 12 the plaintiff was complaining about the choice of
- 13 law and the choice of venue. In that case they said,
- 14 no, you must go to England. So the plaintiff there
- 15 had to go 2,000 miles away. All we're stating is
- 16 that the Wisconsin border from this courthouse is
- 17 about 57 miles. There's nothing unfair about these
- 18 choice of law provisions. They agreed to them and
- 19 you'll notice, Judge, they never really mentioned
- 20 whether they thought they were improper form or
- 21 whether they were unfair to the Wisconsin defendants
- 22 because they're clear. You cannot argue that with
- 23 a straight face.
- Also, Judge, the other question,

- 1 OSGC and the tribe are so closely related to
- 2 the contract, as they were in Solargenix, that
- 3 they had to be expected to be bound by this choice
- 4 of law provision. They -- we're not talking about
- 5 individuals who are coming to the table who are
- 6 only GBRE people. We have the CEO of OSGC, who's
- 7 also a tribal member. We have the CFO of OSGC,
- 8 who's also a tribal member. And our joint venture
- 9 agreement, which we attached to one of our
- 10 affidavits, that was initially, Judge, with OSGC.
- 11 GBRE wasn't even mentioned in the joint venture
- 12 agreement, and actually Solargenix also had a joint
- 13 venture agreement.
- Now, that wasn't -- initially,
- 15 Judge, as our affidavits state, we were dealing
- 16 with the tribe from day one. We were dealing with
- 17 OSGC from day one. GBRE wasn't even in the picture
- 18 when we started this whole thing. It came in later.
- 19 Why would we make presentations before the Oneida
- 20 tribe up in Green Bay if we didn't know they were
- 21 closely related to this contract. Why would we write
- 22 a letter to OSGC's board of directors if we didn't
- 23 know and if they didn't know that they were closely
- 24 related to this contract. At the bare minimum --

- 1 they've admitted this -- OSGC and the tribe would
- 2 have been third-party beneficiaries of this contract.
- 3 And the purpose of GBRE is to make money. We don't
- 4 create corporations in the United States for charity.
- 5 This was an LLC to make OSGC money. OSGC is there
- 6 to make the tribe money. And God love them, they're
- 7 practicing free enterprise, but you can't back off of
- 8 a contract after your CEO signs and say, well, you
- 9 know, that's not us. That's just him acting on his
- 10 own.
- We've talked about in our brief
- 12 and Mr. Pyper's talked about the corporate veil. We
- 13 don't have to prove that the corporate veil has been
- 14 pierced here. I think we've shown enough through our
- 15 affidavits and even through their affidavits that
- 16 the corporate veil has been pierced, Judge. And
- 17 if we just concentrate on their affidavits and what
- 18 they attached to their affidavits, there is a loan
- 19 document from the Wisconsin Bank & Trust regarding
- 20 this particular project. We're talking big money
- 21 here. They're agreeing to fund the project because
- 22 OSGC has requested it and OSGC is mentioned three
- 23 times within that document. And this is just
- 24 one document that OSGC has attached to one of

- 1 their affidavits.
- 2 OSGC is mentioned three times.
- 3 If they're not a part of this deal, why are they
- 4 mentioned in the covenants, why are they mentioned
- 5 for financing, why is their board of directors at all
- 6 involved. We have an email that we attached from
- 7 Kevin Cornelius stating to our people, well, I've
- 8 got four of the five board of directors onboard of
- 9 OSGC. They're onboard. He didn't need them all.
- 10 He wanted them all for the financing of the project.
- 11 And the project is -- it's an integral part, the
- 12 financing. Obviously you can't complete a project
- 13 if you don't have financing.
- And Mr. Pyper pointed out our
- 15 August 2013 letter to the OSGC board. We are asking
- 16 the board to support the completion of the project --
- 17 those are our words -- and we're directing it to
- 18 OSGC. If we take what Mr. Pyper and his briefs are
- 19 stating, that it was just GBRE, well, why is OSGC and
- 20 the tribe so involved with this project if it's just
- 21 the GBRE project. We know we have business committee
- 22 members from the tribe who go to California -- it's
- 23 in our affidavits -- to look at our machinery. Why
- 24 is someone from the business committee of the Oneida

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- 1 tribe looking at our machines that are going to be
- 2 used in the GBRE project if they're not intricately
- 3 involved in this project.
- 4 Moving forward, Judge, I think
- 5 with their affidavits too, I think we have some
- 6 key admissions here. Now, Mr. Pyper wants to have
- 7 it both ways as far as the Bay Mills decision is
- 8 concerned. He at once states, well, they knew --
- 9 the ACF guys knew they were dealing with the tribe
- 10 but his briefs say another thing. His briefs say,
- 11 well, you weren't dealing with the tribe. So which
- 12 is it, are we dealing with the tribe as they state
- 13 or as Mr. Pyper states today, well, you should have
- 14 known you were dealing with the tribe. However, you
- 15 weren't really dealing with the tribe; therefore,
- 16 Bay Mills doesn't apply. Which is it?
- Finally, Judge, the issue that
- 18 we've pled in our complaint -- and we really all
- 19 have to go back to the complaint. We've got all
- 20 these facts and affidavits dueling against each
- 21 other. We can go back to the complaint and I think
- 22 defeat their motion. We know that the tribe
- 23 was intricately and intimately involved with this
- 24 project because it was their vote in December of

- 1 2013, as Mr. Pyper referred to, that dissolved OSGC
- 2 and then destroyed the project. If the tribe and
- 3 OSGC are completely separate from this project,
- 4 why did the tribe's own vote destroy the project.
- 5 It just doesn't make any sense at all. Common sense
- 6 and the facts state that this was a tribal project.
- 7 This was an OSGC project. This was a GBRE project.
- 8 You cannot separate these three entities.
- There's also the issue, Judge,
- 10 of fundamental fairness. This is my last comment.
- 11 It is not unfair to these three entities that we
- 12 are suing to try their case in Cook County. They
- 13 agreed to it through their subsidiary. The
- 14 Solargenix case absolutely rules. The Hugel
- 15 case rules.
- As you pointed out and as some
- 17 of the litigants pointed out in the arbitration case
- 18 three cases before us, words have meaning, especially
- 19 when you have -- you're well represented by smart
- 20 lawyers on both sides. They negotiate every part
- 21 of that contract and included in that contract were
- 22 the choice of law and the choice of venue provisions.
- 23 We don't need to state you waive sovereign immunity.
- 24 And their internal machinations at the tribe as far

- 1 as ordinances, they don't matter according to the
- 2 US Supreme Court, according to the 7th Circuit.
- 3 That doesn't matter. If they did it wrong in some
- 4 fashion at the Oneida tribe or at OSGC and maybe
- 5 didn't go through certain steps or the Robert's rules
- 6 of procedures, it doesn't matter. They're in this.
- 7 They're in this case. If they are let out of this
- 8 case, it's fundamentally unfair.
- And, Judge, with the Solargenix
- 10 and Hugel cases, I don't think you can let them out.
- 11 So I'd just ask that you deny their motion.
- MR. PYPER: Your Honor, just very
- 13 briefly. I didn't say that ACF was dealing with
- 14 the tribe. I said they knew where the tribe was.
- 15 They knew the structure. They could have dealt
- 16 with the tribe. They never did deal with the tribe.
- 17 And why would the business committee and OSGC be
- 18 interested, because this is one of their
- 19 subsidiaries. Just because a parent would like to
- 20 know what a subsidiary is doing doesn't somehow then
- 21 implicate them to be bound by any contract that their
- 22 subsidiary signed.
- 23 Counsel said both sides agreed
- 24 to this, both sides agree. Mr. Cornelius signed

- 1 on behalf of GBRE. He agreed to it. And the
- 2 factual disputes here are simply not material given
- 3 the integration clause and given the common law where
- 4 individual statements by representatives have no
- 5 bearing on waiver of sovereign immunity issues.
- 6 The last thing I want to touch
- 7 on is the Solargenix case. I don't understand how
- 8 that plays any role in this case at this stage. It
- 9 certainly does on personal jurisdiction. That's a
- 10 personal jurisdiction case, has nothing to do with
- 11 the subject matter jurisdiction, nor with sovereign
- 12 immunity. There was no sovereign at issue in that
- 13 case. But what counsel didn't point out was this --
- 14 it was -- the Court ruled that the Spanish parents
- 15 were sufficiently on notice that they could be
- 16 brought into the State of Illinois.
- 17 Well, of course they were. They
- 18 signed a letter of adhesion. A letter of adhesion
- 19 means you can stick parts of the contract at issue
- 20 in the fight. We agreed to those provisions. In
- 21 fact, the Court -- and this was in the personal
- 22 jurisdiction note -- the letter of adhesion said
- 23 that the Spanish parents "accepted and consented
- 24 to be bound by and comply with provisions of the

- 1 underlying contract that was in dispute. And what
- 2 they said was but we didn't specify we'd be bound
- 3 by the forum selection clause. The Court said,
- 4 well, that's not enough to get you out because the
- 5 forum selection clause is embedded in every single
- 6 provision of the contract because it says if there's
- 7 a dispute in what was then a cooperation agreement,
- 8 if there's a dispute with regard to anything in
- 9 here, the forum selection clause applies. So when
- 10 you said in your letter of adhesion you agreed to be
- 11 bound by and comply with provisions that are now in
- 12 dispute, you also bought into the forum selection
- 13 clause.
- All that is is the where provision,
- 15 using Judge Krieger's analysis, where a dispute can
- 16 be brought. It has nothing to do with whether it can
- 17 or whether somebody can consent to the dispute. So
- 18 the Solargenix case is a personal injury case. It's
- 19 not a subject matter jurisdiction case, your Honor.
- <sup>20</sup> MR. DOMBROWSKI: Can I say one thing
- 21 about the Solargenix case? Judge, only one of those
- 22 Spanish defendants signed that letter of adhesion.
- 23 The second one did not. Both were not signatories
- 24 to the contract. And as to the second Spanish

- 1 defendant that didn't even sign the letter of
- 2 adhesion, the Court said you're coming along too.
- 3 You're coming along to Cook County.
- THE COURT: All right. Thank you,
- 5 Counsel. It's been a very interesting argument.
- 6 Where I come back to with regards to the tribe and
- 7 OSGC is, as counsel stated, there's no dispute that
- 8 these two entities, that sovereign immunity would
- 9 apply to them. It's whether or not there's been a
- 10 waiver of that. And where that comes down on a 619,
- 11 I'm looking at the competing affidavits which does
- 12 allow the Court here to make a determination based
- 13 on those affidavits, there has -- everything I've
- 14 seen says it has to be a knowing waiver, not an
- 15 implied, not that just because our subsidiary entered
- 16 into contracts or things like that.
- I do not find that there's been
- 18 a knowing waiver. And, therefore, under sovereign
- 19 immunity, I believe that this case cannot go forward
- 20 as to Oneida Seven Generations Corporation,
- 21 The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.
- MR. PYPER: Thank you, your Honor.
- THE COURT: We're up to --
- MR. TEMPLE: GBRE's motion, your Honor.

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	1 490
1	THE COURT: Yes.
2	MR. TEMPLE: Your Honor, the issues are
3	far similar for our motion. Counsel for Oneida and
	OSG laid out the facts nicely, so I won't reiterate
	all those facts. But simply put, as they stated,
	this is a commercial partnership that did not come
	to fruition. GBRE is a signatory to both the maste
8	lease and the maintenance agreement, which are
9	attached to the complaint.
LO	Assuming the factual allegations
11	of the complaint to be true, we also have to look
	to the fact in that master lease, which is attached
	to the complaint, becomes a part of the pleading.
	And the most important fact of that is there's a
	condition precedent contained in the very first
	paragraph of the master lease that says that
17	the contract doesn't become effective until GBRE
18	takes certain action.
19	The plain language of that
	contingency is clear, and I quote, "The agreement
21	shall not become effective until such time as
22	lessee," lessee being defined as the plaintiff
2-3	excuse me, as GBRE "has notified lessor," the

24 plaintiff, "in writing that lessee has entered into

- 1 financing arrangements with Wisconsin Bank &
- 2 Trust Company on such terms and conditions as are
- 3 reasonably acceptable to lessee."
- The language is very specific.
- 5 There's no allegation in the complaint that
- 6 that notification in writing regarding financing
- 7 arrangements ever took place. We would argue that
- 8 the failure to allege sufficient facts, that that
- 9 condition was met, plaintiffs' claim No. 1 for breach
- 10 of contract against GBRE, also Claim 3 for promissory
- 11 estoppel and -- because GBRE's obligations to the
- 12 plaintiffs, contractual or otherwise, were clearly
- 13 subject to that condition. And, finally, Claim 5 for
- 14 unjust enrichment should also be dismissed because
- 15 the claim's either barred by the existence of a valid
- 16 contract here, all but an unenforceable one against
- 17 GBRE, or at the very least the plaintiffs have not
- 18 pled sufficient facts to establish either the unjust
- 19 retention of a benefit or really any benefit at all
- 20 that was conveyed to GBRE as a part of the
- 21 negotiation of these contracts.
- Looking at the condition precedent,
- 23 your Honor, to establish a claim for breach of
- 24 contract, they've got to establish the existence

- 1 of a valid, enforceable contract. For purposes
- 2 of this motion, GBRE is not denying the existence
- 3 of the contract. As you heard from counsel a moment
- 4 ago at great length, these contracts were negotiated
- 5 heavily by both sides. Both sides were represented
- 6 by counsel. There's no question that they had a
- 7 meeting of the minds. They entered into contracts.
- For purposes of our motion we're
- 9 not denying the existence of a valid contract.
- 10 There's a second step to that. And under Carollo v.
- 11 Irwin, where a contract contains a condition
- 12 precedent, the contract's not enforceable against
- 13 one party as far as their obligations are concerned
- 14 until the condition is performed or the contingency
- 15 occurs. So in this case we have a valid contract.
- 16 Part of that contract is a contingency, a condition
- 17 precedent. There's no obligation that can be
- 18 enforced against GBRE until that condition is met.
- Now, plaintiffs haven't pled facts
- 20 that establish that that condition was met. They
- 21 want to point to the allegation they've made that
- 22 there was a commitment from Wisconsin Bank & Trust
- 23 for financing. That glosses over the full language
- 24 of that condition precedent. The contingency

- 1 language of paragraph 1 doesn't just say that
- 2 GBRE has to enter into financing arrangements. In
- 3 fact, there's three elements of that, that they
- 4 entered into financing arrangements, that those were
- 5 reasonably acceptable to GBRE, but most importantly
- 6 that they notified ACF in writing of those
- 7 arrangements.
- 8 Now, going further and looking at
- 9 the maintenance agreement, the second of these two
- 10 contracts -- and I note that in the response brief
- 11 the plaintiffs brought up the commencement date
- 12 and the maintenance agreement -- the maintenance
- 13 agreement commences upon commencement of the master
- 14 lease. And the Schedule 1 of the master lease says
- 15 that it commences when the loan proceeds are
- 16 disbursed -- or, excuse me, when the loan proceeds
- 17 are received by GBRE.
- So there's really two dates here.
- 19 The first is the effective date of the contract
- 20 when the notification in writing occurs. The second
- 21 is the receipt of the actual loan proceeds which
- 22 causes the lease to commence and then also triggers
- 23 the second contract, which is the maintenance
- 24 and operation agreement. In this case there's no

- 1 allegation that GBRE ever provided that notification
- 2 in writing.
- Now, plaintiffs want you to accept
- 4 that their allegation that WBT agreed to provide
- 5 financing is sufficient to fulfill that contingency.
- 6 But as counsel noted earlier, words have meaning.
- 7 For whatever reason as these parties negotiated at
- 8 great length these contracts, both represented by
- 9 counsel, they reserved to GBRE the discretion to
- 10 provide notification in writing when the financing
- 11 commitment was reasonably acceptable to them. The
- 12 parties decided that the requirement of written
- 13 notice was important. We're not talking about
- 14 a condition that's buried in this contract, your
- 15 Honor. We're talking about paragraph 1 on the first
- 16 page of the master lease, notification in writing
- 17 of financing arrangements that were reasonably
- 18 acceptable to GBRE.
- Because there are no facts pled
- 20 to establish that that notification ever occurred
- 21 and that that contingency was met, we'd argue that
- 22 they failed to state the breach of contract claim and
- 23 it must be dismissed.
- With regard to promissory estoppel,

- 1 obviously under the case law to establish promissory
- 2 estoppel you've got to argue a promise that's
- 3 unambiguous in its terms, reasonably foreseeable
- 4 reliance on the promise to the parties' detriment.
- 5 First, we've argued that the existence of a valid
- 6 contract in this case bars the claim for promissory
- 7 estoppel. Promissory estoppel is available in the
- 8 absence of a contract. Plaintiffs' counsel in their
- 9 response brief notes that, well, we've made an
- 10 argument that there's an unenforceable contractual
- 11 obligation here so, therefore, they should be allowed
- 12 to bring their promissory estoppel claim.
- Again, for purposes of this motion
- 14 we're not arguing there's no valid contract here.
- 15 We're arguing that as a result of that condition in
- 16 that contract, there's no enforceable promise against
- 17 GBRE. On the other hand, as they would argue,
- 18 anytime you have a condition in a contract that's not
- 19 met, it opens the doors to any number of equitable
- 20 claims.
- So the parties at great length here,
- 22 represented by counsel, negotiate a contract in which
- 23 it reserves to GBRE the notification in writing,
- 24 reserves that condition there for the contract to be

- 1 effective and enforceable and then somehow because
- 2 that condition is not met, GBRE is still held to
- 3 every other promise in that contract under an
- 4 equitable theory. Your Honor, we would argue that
- 5 that's not the purpose of promissory estoppel, and
- 6 certainly the failure of a condition precedent does
- 7 not suddenly open the floodgates to equitable claims.
- 8 But even if there is not a valid contract in this
- 9 case, you still have a condition promise. Promissory
- 10 estoppel, they have to show reasonable reliance.
- Your Honor, looking here to
- 12 In Re Midway Airlines, which we've cited in our
- 13 brief, you cannot reasonably rely on a condition
- 14 promise. Whether it's in the contract or not, GBRE's
- 15 promises are clearly conditioned on this notification
- 16 in writing requirement. The parties negotiated that
- 17 at length. It's in writing, you know. It states
- 18 that that is the condition there.
- Plaintiffs must show that they had
- 20 some sort of reasonable reliance on GBRE's promises.
- 21 And I'll note in their pleading, the reliance that
- 22 they allege is actually reliance on, and I quote,
- 23 "contractual promises," that's at paragraph 56, and
- 24 that they reasonably relied on the -- capital A --

- 1 Agreements in paragraph 58. So they don't even hide
- 2 the fact that the promises that they're relying on
- 3 are those that are laid out in the contract, the
- 4 contract that contains a clear condition.
- 5 So even if they argued that their
- 6 promissory estoppel claim can be brought because
- 7 there's no valid contract, you still have promises
- 8 that they claim to be relying on that are subject
- 9 to a condition. Their reliance is unreasonable as
- 10 a matter of law because it's a conditional promise.
- 11 It's not a definite, unambiguous promise. In this
- 12 case GBRE said we're going to do all of these things,
- 13 we're going to take necessary steps to carry out this
- 14 contract. But paragraph 1, page 1, this is not
- 15 effective until such time as we notify you in writing
- 16 that we have a financing commitment that's reasonably
- 17 acceptable to us. For that reason, because that
- 18 reliance is unreasonable as a matter of law, we'd
- 19 argue that the claim for promissory estoppel must
- 20 also be dismissed.
- Finally, as far as unjust enrichment
- 22 goes, your Honor, there are no facts alleged either
- 23 to the conveyance of any kind of benefit, nor
- 24 the unjust nature of the retention of such benefit.

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- 1 Counsel in their response has argued that, they've
- 2 alleged proprietary and exclusive information. But
- 3 there's no allegation as to how GBRE would use that
- 4 information, how they have used that information,
- 5 no allegation as to how GBRE has benefited from that
- 6 information, no allegation as to how the information
- 7 benefited any other project that GBRE is using.
- 8 Plaintiffs' conclusory claim
- 9 that they shared information that has some enormous
- 10 benefit without any supporting facts simply doesn't
- 11 establish the conveyance of a benefit there to
- 12 support unjust enrichment. But even so, even if
- 13 there were a benefit conveyed there by the sharing
- 14 of information in the negotiation of a contract,
- 15 they fail to allege any facts that would support
- 16 the unjust enrichment of that benefit.
- In this case the parties
- 18 at arm's length represented by counsel traveling
- 19 down to Evanston, Illinois, as plaintiffs' counsel
- 20 noted, negotiated this, shared information, visited
- 21 facilities all with the understanding that this
- 22 was a contract which on the first page in the
- 23 first paragraph contained the condition to its
- 24 effectiveness and its enforceability. For them

- 1 to now argue that the sharing of that information
- 2 is part of that negotiation, such retention was
- 3 unjust, ignores all the other language that was
- 4 negotiated in the contract. To simply say because
- 5 this contract didn't work out, it's unjust for you
- 6 to keep anything we told you and that you owe us
- 7 for all of that disregards all the language of the
- s contract.
- For example, if the plaintiffs
- 10 had wanted to create some sort of protections for
- 11 themselves on the conveyance of proprietary exclusive
- 12 information, they could have worked that into the
- 13 contract. They could have negotiated those terms
- 14 in, understanding that it was a conditional promise.
- 15 Perhaps this doesn't come to fruition, perhaps the
- 16 financing commitment isn't provided, perhaps GBRE
- 17 doesn't find it reasonably acceptable, what is our
- 18 protection for this information that we've shared.
- 19 Nothing like that is incorporated into the agreement.
- 20 There's no protections in that case there. And as
- 21 both sides articulated earlier, this is a fully
- 22 integrated agreement so any assurances that might
- 23 have been made outside of the agreement are not
- 24 incorporated therein.

1	For those reasons, your Honor,
2	we would ask that the Court dismiss Counts I, III and
3	V of plaintiffs' complaint.
4	MR. DOMBROWSKI: Judge, obviously this is
5	a 2-615 motion. We have to go back to the specific
6	wording of the complaint, which I don't think counse
7	THE STATE OF THE S
8	of things that were not within the body of the
	complaint.
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.1	of the complaint several paragraphs regarding
	funding, regarding a guarantee of loan, regarding
.3	the loan being approved. We also specifically
	plead 43 paragraphs regarding the specifics of the
	contract, and obviously we have attached A and B
	to our complaint, which is incorporated within the
	complaint. Illinois does not require you to go
	forth every paragraph of every contract in a breach
	of contract action and lay out those contracts. A
	breach of contract action if that were such would be
	40 pages.
22	
	nlead that every all conditions precedent

24 were met. We detailed the funding. We attached

- 1 the complaint. As to Count I, it's properly
- 2 pled. Also paragraphs 1 through 43 go into Count I,
- 3 so all of that detail goes into Count I. We have
- 4 specifically pled. We've put them on notice. They
- 5 should be required to answer it.
- Judge, as to the promissory
- 7 estoppel, this again is pleading in the alternative.
- 8 We not only refer to the complaint in our promissory
- 9 estoppel, which is Count III, but we also -- counsel
- 10 didn't read this part. "ACF and ACF Services relied
- 11 on GBRE's contractual promises and/or all promises
- 12 to proceed with the project." Now, if they're
- 13 willing to say this is a valid contract, we might
- 14 have another issue on promissory estoppel. But
- 15 Illinois law is clear we can plead it even if
- 16 there's a breach of contract action.
- Same goes for unjust enrichment,
- 18 which is Count V. We specifically state in Count V
- 19 how they're unjustly enriched not only within the
- 20 body of Count V but the paragraphs 1 through 43,
- 21 which specifically state this is our exclusive
- 22 technology, oral and written presentations to the
- 23 tribe, to OSGC. It is exclusive. It is proprietary.
- 24 They were unjustly enriched because of the knowledge

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- 1 they gained from us before they walked away. So,
- 2 Judge, I'd ask that you deny his motion in its
- 3 entirety.
- 4 MR. TEMPLE: Your Honor, with respect
- 5 to the allegations about the facts, again, I would
- 6 point back to the very specific condition on the
- 7 first page of the master lease. As counsel noted,
- 8 it's attached to the complaint. That becomes part of
- 9 the complaint. Yes, that is the focus of our motion,
- 10 is that particular element and the fact that there's
- 11 no other facts pled in the complaint that support
- 12 the fulfillment of that condition.
- I understand counsel's point that
- 14 we need not go through every single paragraph of
- 15 the lease to determine whether, you know, every
- 16 single aspect of that is pled, but in this case they
- 17 pled a breach of the contract generally for us not
- 18 continuing through with the project. And I can point
- 19 to the language right here, but specifically they've
- 20 said that we have breached by abandoning and refusing
- 21 to implement the master lease and maintenance
- 22 agreements.
- There's a clear condition on the
- 24 first page that says it's not effective unless that

- 1 contingency is met. That is a fact necessary to show
- 2 that we've somehow abandoned this contract. To argue
- 3 that we abandoned/refused to implement the contract
- 4 when there's a clear condition that says we don't
- 5 continue with this unless A, B and C happens and
- 6 they haven't pled A, B and C, I would argue that
- 7 that is the facts required to be pled under Illinois
- 8 law in this case.
- As far as the other two claims go,
- 10 again, as far as promissory estoppel is concerned,
- 11 they have not pled any sort of reasonable reliance.
- 12 Given the fact that this is a condition promise, I
- 13 have not heard any arguments from plaintiffs' counsel
- 14 that they believe there was an unconditional promise
- 15 made. And unjust enrichment, there are no
- 16 allegations under the count for unjust enrichment
- 17 as to what that benefit was but, more importantly,
- 18 where's the injustice? And looking at the case law,
- 19 and this is the Galvan v. Northwestern Memorial
- 20 Hospital case that we cited, "A cause of action for
- 21 unjust enrichment must allege the defendant retained
- 22 a benefit to the plaintiffs' detriment in violation
- 23 of the fundamental principles of justice, equity
- 24 and good conscious."

All the plaintiffs have alleged is that information was shared in the negotiation of a contract that contained a condition to enforceability and effectiveness and that somehow the retention of that information was unjust. Again, in this case any party that is negotiating a contract with a condition in it must now be aware under plaintiffs' theory that they are at risk of an equitable claim for unjust enrichment if they don't carry through with this contract. There's no allegation here of any bad faith by GBRE. Any failure by GBRE to take the necessary steps to ensure the condition was fulfilled.  And, finally, with regards to plaintiffs' comment that they have generally and conclusory pled that all conditions were met, they simply pled that all conditions precedent to the contract were met by ACF Leasing or ACF Services We've not argued that they failed to meet any condition. We've argued that there's a general condition to the effectiveness of the contract.
19 We've not argued that they laned to meet any
27 1110 Parazo

- 1 GBRE the discretion to provide that notification that
- 2 would then trigger the effectiveness of the contract.
- 3 For that reason, your Honor, I'd ask that the three
- 4 counts be dismissed.
- 5 THE COURT: Well, I did have an
- 6 opportunity, of course, to go through the briefs
- 7 and read through the complaint and everything. And
- 8 based upon your arguments, first of all, as to the
- 9 breach of contract, we're at a pleading stage.
- 10 You're asking plaintiff at this point in time to
- 11 plead evidentiary facts, not just sufficient facts
- 12 to state a cause of action. Therefore, the breach of
- 13 contract count will go forward.
- As to the promissory estoppel, it is
- 15 being pled in the alternative, but I do find that
- 16 it's lacking because if you look at your paragraphs,
- 17 you start at 55, and in your own argument you said
- 18 we have pled numerous facts to support the cause of
- 19 action in 1 through 43. Those are never even alleged
- 20 or realleged in your Count III as to promissory
- 21 estoppel on that. So it is dismissed with leave
- 22 to replead within 28 days, and I find a similar
- 23 need to plead your unjust enrichment claim more
- 24 clearly as to Green Bay Renewable Energy as well.

## ACF LEASING, LLC, et al., vs. GREEN BAY RENEWABLE ENERGY, LLC, et al.

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1	Therefore, Counts III and V are dismissed with leave
2	to replead within 28 days.
3	Given the fact that defendant is
4	to answer the breach of contract, but you're going
5	to have to respond to that, I'm going to put it all
6	in the same schedule. So with plaintiff repleading
7	III and V, 28 days would put you at November 5th,
8	I believe, yes. So we'll have the defendant answer
9	or otherwise plead as to III and V and answer
10	Count I by December 3rd.
11	Let's give a future status date.
12	Let me just write this down. Okay. Let's get back,
13	how's December 10th? Let's do it at 9:30. I think
14	we should be able to do that, okay?
15	MR. DOMBROWSKI: Thank you.
16	MR. TEMPLE: Thanks, your Honor.
17	THE COURT: Have a good day.
18	WHICH WERE ALL THE PROCEEDINGS
19	HAD OR OFFERED AT SAID HEARING
20	OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED CAUSE.
21	
22	
23	
24	

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1
    STATE OF ILLINOIS)
                         SS.
    COUNTY OF C O O K)
 2
 3
              I, MARY MASLOWSKI, CSR, do hereby
 4
    certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings
 5
    had at the hearing aforesaid, and that the foregoing
 б
    is a true, complete and accurate transcript of the
    proceedings at said hearing as appears from the
 8
    stenographic notes so taken and transcribed on the
 9
10
    9th day of October, 2014.
11
12
13
                             Certified Shorthand Reporter
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