

LUMBEE TRIBE of NORTH CAROLINA

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Greetings to all from the Office of Tribal Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. It gives me great pleasure to address and write this letter not only to the general membership, but also to all citizens of the southeastern part of North Carolina and the northeastern area of South Carolina.

It is my hope, that through this type of inclusive dialogue and education concerning tribal programs, services, activities and functions, our neighbors will understand and support our vision of tribal self-determination, as we as a tribe, continue our quest for full federal recognition and status.

Full federal recognition, with all the rights and privileges for the Lumbee membership will never be obtained or realized without the support and help from our neighbors. Acknowledging and accepting this, only brings us all closer to understanding one another while accomplishing common goals and objectives. So, through programmatic and informative dialogues, such as this, this Administration will utilize this opportunity to educate, inspire and motivate one another by respect and our common concerns.

As I see it, full federal recognition will accomplish three common concerns among members and our neighbors: 1) the creation of jobs for all people to replace the ones lost; 2) the reduction of each taxpayer's future tax burden, and 3) to keep and continue the regional success and vitality in the traditions of pride and self-determination.

Full federal recognition will impact every resident regardless of race or ethnic identity. Federal status will allow for economical development opportunities that are only available to full status American Indian tribes.

The second benefit that all residents of the southeastern region of the state would see in tangible benefits is a reduction in their tax burden. Currently, members of the Tribe contribute individually to the local areas and municipalities by paying taxes like everyone else. Federal recognition reduce by delaying or preventing future tax increases on all citizens by allowing the Tribe to not only contribute their tax dollars individually but also as a whole unit by paying taxes collectively on tribally owned resources and revenues. Allowing and supporting this, reduces the future tax dollars owed by everyone, because it reduces the future tax burden on all.

Now that two good reasons for anyone, Lumbee and non-Lumbee, to get excited and support full federal recognition for the Lumbee people. However, I won't stop there.

The hope that the pride of the people of the dark water will live on and continue to grow for another 500 years is another common concern. For as long as the people of the dark water live on in pride, this region will always prosper. Its prosperity is already due in part to our ancestor's pride. The establishment and continuing legacy of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The contributions and success of Lumbee Guarantee Bank, and lest we forget the inspiration and testimony to this same sense of pride by our churches in their creation and maintenance of a church association.

All three institutions grew from not just a need or desire, but through pride in this area and its people. Pride and hope that grew to include others that did not originally seem to think they would benefit. The opportunities that all three are now providing to all people, regardless to their race, nationality, creed or gender is truly remarkable. It is my hope, again through this letter, to spread the vision that I see full federal recognition will bring this area. Benefits for all our children and the generations yet to come. I guarantee the 44 ancestors who petitioned for a school in 1888 had no idea it would be a member and bare the name of one of the country's oldest and renowned university systems with an enrollment of almost 6,000 students. That's a long ways from the single room building it began as.



Chairman Jimmy Goins