



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

December 4, 2019

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301*

The Hon. Ruben Gallego, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Indigenous People
of the United States
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Paul Cook, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Indigenous People
of the United States
1324 Longworth House Office
Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gallego & Ranking Member Cook:

Thank you for convening today's hearing regarding full federal recognition of North Carolina's own Lumbee Tribe. I write to convey my strong support for full federal recognition of the tribe. The Lumbee Tribe has been in pursuit of full federal recognition since being officially recognized by the State of North Carolina in 1885, and it enjoys bipartisan support in this mission from leaders in North Carolina and our congressional delegation.

In 1956, the Lumbee Act signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower specifically denied the tribe the benefits afforded to other federally recognized tribes. It is past time that this injustice is righted. Full federal recognition would afford the tribe enhanced economic opportunity and job creation in one of the poorest counties in the United States, and would allow members access to health care, education, housing, and childcare benefits.

The Lumbee Tribe has deep cultural roots in North Carolina. Its contributions to the fabric of our state are vast, and our fates are inextricably linked. It is time for

The Hon. Reuben Gallego
The Hon. Paul Cook
December 4, 2019
Page 2

the Lumbee to enjoy the full recognition of the United States Government, and your committee has an important opportunity today to affect that outcome.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

RAC/sm/jw