



Resolution 2017-12-01

In support of Federal Recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

WHEREAS, Pembroke, North Carolina is home to more than 2,400 Lumbee Indians, and

WHEREAS, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is an officially recognized American Indian tribe in the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, as the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is governed by a twenty-one-member Tribal Council and a Tribal Chairman, which are duly established and authorized through public election by enrolled tribal members in accordance with the Lumbee Tribal Constitution, and has responsibility for legislative and executive governance of tribal affairs and advocating the needs and rights of tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the Lumbee Indian People have resided in the area that is now Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland counties and surrounding areas since the mid-1700s, and continue to live in these territories today; and

WHEREAS, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina is headquartered in Pembroke, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, today more than 62,100 members comprise the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, making it the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the seventh largest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1887 the North Carolina General Assembly established an Indian Normal School in Robeson County, dedicated to training Indian teachers for Indian schools (N.C. General Assembly 1887, Chap. 254). This institution is now known as the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; and

WHEREAS, due to severe underfunding of the Indian Normal School, in 1888 tribal leaders submitted a petition to Congress for recognition and assistance for the tribe's schools. Congress referred the petition to the Department of the Interior's Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who ultimately denied the request, citing insufficient resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1956 Congress passed the Lumbee Act, which recognized the tribe as Indian; however the Act withheld the full benefits of federal recognition from tribal members; and

WHEREAS, currently there are two bills before the United States Congress, S.1047 and H.R. 3650, that will amend the 1956 Lumbee Act and grant full federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce at its regularly scheduled board of directors meeting on July 11, 2017, hereby authorizes this resolution in support of federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce urges the United States Congress to grant federal recognition, to the fullest extent, to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.



Judy O. Sampson, President

Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce
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