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Congresswoman Diane Watson
Att: Bert Hammond
125 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-0533
Phone# 202-225-7084
Fax # 202-225-2422

Dear Congresswoman Watson & Mr. Hammond,

First I want to Thank Mr. Hammond to calling me bright and early this morning after I faxed a letter to you, that evidently only a few pages were received. I will be re faxing the letter today. But in the meantime after talking with Mr. Hammond I wanted to go a little further and explain why we need your help so badly.

Mr. Hammond made the comment that several Terminated tribes contacts your office quite often, hoping for help. It was my understanding that we were the “only” terminated group that has not been Federally Recognized, and most all terminated tribes have either been reinstated or federally recognized... except for us.

First I would like to say and I might have already put this in my letter to you yesterday that the “Termination” of me and my people is so different from any other termination in the United States. Why? Because, instead of terminating the whole tribe, the government only terminated one quarter of the tribe. The Ute Indian Tribe wanted to get rid of what they considered “mixed bloods.” So we were the ones they, along with government officials, B.I.A. and others that choose the mixed bloods who was only one half Indian or less, to be terminated. If you were one half or more you could choose to go with the mixed bloods or be terminated with the rest of the tribe that were to follow in five to ten years. Because of this we have Full Bloods on our rolls, who thought the rest of their family would be terminated anyway.

President Nixon’s “self determination without termination” came into existence in the seventies, for all Indian Tribes, except the Ute Indian Tribe, whose termination has never been canceled. Public Law 671 of the 83rd Congress was put together for the “whole” Ute Indian Tribe, not just for the Mixed Blood Uintas, but we are the only ones who have had to live by a congressional act of congress, that has held us hostage for almost “55” plus years.

We have filed case after case in courts.... Only to have them kicked out because the Ute Indian Tribe sends their attorneys to fight us. We have tried submitting Resolutions to the "National Congress of American Indians" to Repeal Public Law 671, and the Ute Tribal Council is there to stop the Resolutions. NCAI said they would entertain our resolution without the "approval" of the Ute Indian Tribe. This was just at the last N.C.A.I. that was held in Reno, Nevada the first of this month.

We have filed a Lawsuit in Court in Washington D.C. claiming we have never had an accounting of what was suppose to be ours when we were terminated. The Federal Judge ruled that the statute of limitations had run out on us and if we wanted to do anything we should have done it 6 years after termination. Six years after termination I would have been 17 years old! Our Attorney appealed to the D.C. Court of Appeals and the Court of Appeals sent the case back to Judge Roberts. Our Attorney used P.L. 108-108 which in short says you have to have an accounting before you can legally be terminated etc. Which we have never had. But yet that is the Ute Tribes main gripe, they say "they were terminated, they wanted termination, they got everything that was theirs. We don't want them back and on and on.

First: Out of 490 Terminated; 260 were Minor Children with no voice or vote. I was one of those minor children. The adults who had been raised Indian all their lives, who in the past couldn't even sell a cow or horse without getting approval from the B.I.A. were suppose to have voted for termination. No where are there any records that prove this. My people were happy as they were. They never wanted termination, it was forced on them.

We don't know what we were to get because we have never had an accounting (which our attorney is asking for in the courts now) and we never have asked to go back with the Ute Tribe. We want to be separate and apart from them. But we do want our identity as American Indians restored. We have our Federal roll numbers, and we want to be able to enroll our children and have lands to live on. If we could just get back the Lands that was suppose to be ours, we wouldn't be taking anything from the Ute Tribe that was theirs.

When we were terminated each 490 was given 10 shares of stock in a corporation. This corporation is called the "Ute Distribution Corporation." I and my people knew nothing about "stock certificates" or what this piece of paper was. So my people started selling and trading the stocks for groceries, tires, cars, and the white man and the Ute Indian Tribe was grabbing the stocks up like crazy. These stocks are now worth millions of dollars. U.D.C. pays out payments to "non Indians" and the Ute Indian Tribe (making money off their own people) every 3 to 4 months. At 10 shares they are paying out five to ten thousand dollars, and only a few of the original 490 that hung on to their stocks get paid. The rest of us watch as non members, whites, big corporations, and the Ute Indian Tribe are getting rich off our stocks, that was suppose to be federally protected, and should have never been allowed to be sold. My people were desperate because they had no medical insurance, no educational grants, no housing, no lands and no dental or hospital. I have seen so many of my die because of no medical and drink themselves to death, because they couldn't live in two different worlds, one white and one Indian, all because the Government wanted to use us as an experiment called "Termination."

The Ute Indian Tribe has been a thorn in our side from the start to now. They hated us because we were of mixed blood and wanted us out. When a lot on their rolls were the same. They are prejudice against other tribes.

I live in Roosevelt which is located about 7 miles east of the Indian Health Service Unit in Ft. Duchesne... now the Ute Tribe has made it a law that no Indians can have "Contract Health Service" unless they live on the reservation which Roosevelt (they say) is not, although I live only about one quarter mile from the boundary.

I'm "63" years old. I can't get Medicare yet and now I can't get Contract Health Service so I'm sitting without any insurance whatsoever, and the only way I can get HIS is because I have a certificate of Indian blood from my grandfather who is Paiute.

We sit in almost the same category as the Freedman's. The Ute Tribe kicked us out because they didn't want mixed bloods.

We need your help and we are asking that you help us to reclaim our identities as American Indians and to bury Public Law 671 or if the Ute Tribe fights us, they need to be terminated or have their funds stopped such as in the case of the Freedman's.

I hope this helps... please let me know that you will side with us and help us. We can't get any of our congressmen or senators to help us, because they side with the Ute Indian Tribe.

Please let me hear from you ASAP.
Again Thank You,

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Our Attorney is: Dennis Chappabitty he lives in Sacramento, California
His phone No is: 916-602-0575

I have asked him about going this route as our people are old and dying off, he thinks it would be good to try and get federally recognized even while the case is in court. He would be glad to talk to you at any time. By the way we work only on Contributions from our people. We are poor, we don't have grants etc. Thank you,