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June 11, 2008

Congresswoman Diane Watson

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RE: Termination of American Indians.. Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Ute Indian Tribe of Utah.

Dear Congresswoman Watson,
I have wanted to write a letter to you for quite sometime regarding Termination of American Indians.

First let me explain who I am and why I am writing this letter.

I am Oranna Bumgarner Felter, and I am a Terminated American Indian From Utah. We are the Terminated Mixed Bloods of the Ute Indian Tribe. In the late 50's early 60's Congress terminated me and my people. There were 490 in our group that was terminated out of about 1,900. Out of the 490 that was terminated approx. 260 were minor children which I was one of those children. Public Law 671 of the 83rd Congress is the law that we were terminated under. The United States Government was able to use its authority during the Termination era to execute a "forced" termination on me, my parents, my grandparents etc. Added to this is the fact that the Bureau of Indian Affairs instigated a situation where many of the terminated members were forced to sell their stock in Ute Distribution Corporation, then the BIA either intentionally or negligently allowed the valuable Stock to be passed to the hands of the "Ute Indian Tribe" who was also suppose to be "Terminated" and non-Indians.

There is no evidence that that Me or my people ever voted to be terminated.. I firmly believe that the BIA perpetuated a bald faced lie to Congress to get the Ute Partition Act passed by saying that the Uinta freely and voluntarily gave up their Indian status in return for valuable property and assets now in the hands of non Indians and the Ute Indian Tribe(which continues to this day, and will continue unless something is done.)

As you can see the combination of the geographic isolation of the mixed-bloods, the transfer of valuable assets intended for the benefit of the terminated Indians, outside organizations and the Ute Indian Tribe, “all powerful and extremely cunning, and the BIA either siding with enemies and failing to protect the “terminated Uinta Utes from overreaching and unscrupulous Attorneys and other parties has led to a situation where massive “Human Rights” violations has been effectively covered up, ignored and allowed to stand for all of these years, for well over “55” years and it continues!”

What is different about our Termination from any and all of the terminations in the United States is: We are the “only” people who only a “fourth” of a Tribe was terminated. We are a part of the “UTE INDAN TRIBE.” The rest of the Ute Tribe was to be terminated within 5 to 10 years after we were terminated. This Never Happened!. President Nixon enacted his “self determination without termination” policy thus putting a hold on termination, except for the Ute Indian Tribe. So here we sit... “one fourth” of the Ute Tribe Terminated... and “three fourths” of the Ute Indian Tribe “Federally Recognized. One Fourth of the Terminated Uinta Ute Tribe living and breathing and strapped to a Congressional law (The Ute partition Act..(UPA) P.L. 671 of the 83rd Congress) that was “Created and breathed life into for a “whole” tribe..” when all the time the Ute Indian Tribe continues to function as a Federally Recognized Tribe when they should have been Terminated along with us,as the same law that terminated us was created for them too, they still fall under the same Termination Law today. This Termination Law is “open” “alive” and “breathing” until either the Terminated Mixed Blood Uinta Band of Ute Indians is Federally Recognized or “The Ute Indian Tribe is Terminated..” This law remains a “functioning and threatening Law to every Indian Tribe in the United States of America!

We have tried for years to get rid of this law, and have congress give us back our identity, but the Ute Indian Tribe blocks us at every step we take. We have tried to present a resolutions to the National Congress of American Indians, but they keep kicking it out because the Ute Indian Tribe won’t approve the Resolution for us to be Federally recognized. The Ute Indian Tribe wants to hold us “Hostage”to a Congressionly enacted Law that was “created, for not just us, but for the rest of the Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Indian Tribe by endoursing this Termination Law is jepordizing the sovereignty of every Indian Tribe in the United States, by saying “Termination is okay, because they refuse to help put this law to rest.”

It is because of the above which is a short note, as its hard to put fifty years into a letter, that I am asking for your help in either getting the “Terminated Mixed Blood Uinta

Utes of Utah, Federally Recognized or **Complete Public Law 671 of the 83rd Congress, which would call for the immediate “Termination of the Ute Indian Tribe of Utah.”** **It cannot and should not be both ways... either the “terminated mixed blood Uinta Utes has to be federally recognized or the Ute Indian tribe has to be Terminated.”**

I have been watching the Cherokee Nation and Freedman Issue with great concern, and I know you have proposed a “Cherokee Termination Bill..” This is why I though I would ask for your help in the “Termination” of the Mixed Blood Uinta Band of Utes of Utah, in helping us to be federally recognized.

Living as a Terminated Indian sense I was 11 years old has been a rough road, and I don't really like the word termination, but we have tried everything we possibly know to try and get back our identities and once again be who we have always been... American Indians. But the Ute Tribes continual blocking and interfering which tells us that they want the law to stay as it is and not be changed which will call for “their” immediate termination.

Our Termination happened back in the late 50's early 60's and has been dragging on for well over fifty years. I feel the Terminated of the Ute Indian Tribe, should be dealt with first It appears the only way we can stop this injustice of Human Rights Violations against the Terminated Mixed Blood Uinta Band of Ute Indians of Utah is to call for the “Repeal” of the Act or for the immediate “Termination” of the rest of the Ute Indian Tribe of Utah, we cannot and will not let this Termination Law remain open any longer. We have asked for support from our own Rep. in Utah but they refuse to help us, we are fighting this fight by ourselves, with no help from anyone.

I also want to make it clear, that asking for the above has absolutely nothing to do with my feelings towards the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Freedman as I do not want to be involved in this issue of Termination of the Cherokee Nation, or any other Tribe.

If you need more information... please go to our website at: www.undeclaredutes.net
Or contact me at: mykewass@ubtanet.com

Thank you for your time and I will be anxiously awaiting an answer from you.

Oranna Bumgarner Felter, Terminated Mixed Blood Uinta Band of Ute Indians of Utah
CC: obf files, Mixed Blood Files

Sent to Congresswoman Watson by Fax and U.S. mail on June 11, 2008
Copies of this Letter was also sent by email, u.s. mail and faxed to other interested Parties on June 11, 2008 and will continue to be sent.