

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

[REDACTED] 2005

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of President George W. Bush, thank you for your letter.

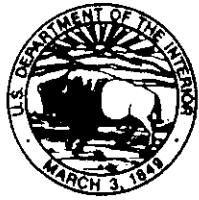
The White House is sending your inquiry to the Department of the Interior. This agency has the expertise to address your concerns. They will respond directly to you, as promptly as possible.

The President sends his best wishes.

Sincerely,



Marguerite A. Murer
Acting Director of
Presidential Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240



IN REPLY TO TRIBAL Government Services
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in response to your letter dated December 20, 2004, addressed to President Bush requesting repeal by Act of Congress of the Ute Partition Act (UPA) of August 27, 1954, 68 Stat. 868, 25 U.S.C § 677, *et seq.* or reversal by court decision. The White House forwarded your correspondence to us for response.

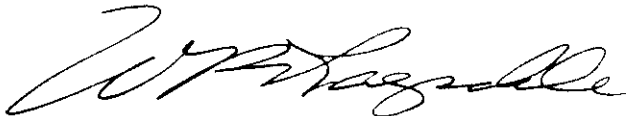
The Mixed Blood Utes have organized and refer to their group as "Felter-vs-Norton". The purpose of the group is to support the litigation efforts of Oranna Bumgarner Felter and 322 additional plaintiffs who filed suit November 4, 2002 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. See *Felter v. Norton*, Case Number 1:02CV02156. The plaintiffs are seeking redress of the wrongs allegedly committed against them as a result of the Ute Partition Act. The court will decide whether the Mixed Blood Utes status as "Indian" was relinquished with actions previously taken pursuant to the UPA reversed or upheld.

The March, 2004 quarterly newsletter for the litigants, *The Mixed Blood's Direction*, discusses the viability of legislative repeal of the UPA and suggests that legislation may not be in their best interests at this time. Copies of the March, 2004 and March, 2005 issues newsletter are enclosed. The March, 2004 newsletter alludes to an individual named Dora Van as leading an effort for the development of legislation repealing the UPA.

Should you pursue a legislative repeal we suggest that you work with the Tribal Business Committee of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation (Ute Tribe) to draft repeal language acceptable to both parties. It is necessary for you to work with the governing body of the Ute Tribe since repealing the Ute Partition Act affects the Ute Tribe as well. Should both parties reach an agreement to repeal the Ute Partition Act, you and the Ute Tribe should jointly approach your congressional representatives to introduce proposed legislation.

We regret that we cannot be of further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. P. Ray", written in a cursive style.

Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs