Atine, Patrese

From:	Nicole Flores [redacted]
Sent:	Monday, February 01, 2010 9:58 PM
To:	Echohawk, Larry
Cc:	Mom
Subject:	Tejon Indian Tribe
Attachments:	Asst-1. Sec. Ltr.doc

FOIA6

February 1, 2010

Dear Mr. Echo Hawk,

I am Nicole Flores, of the Tejon Indian tribe. You met with 4 of our council members on September 30, 2009 at your offices in D.C. At the conclusion of that meeting, after listening to our lawyers and our Chairwoman, you told them that we would receive an answer from you by November 1, 2009 in regards to our federal recognition.

Upon their return home, they informed our tribal members about the meeting and that you told them personally that we would receive a response at the time you stated. We all felt very positive about the meeting with you and your staff, so I am sitting here dumbfounded as to why we are still waiting for your response.

Our Tribal Chairwoman Kathryn Montes Morgan sent you a letter last week which gives you an over view of our interaction with your department over the last 3 1/2 years. We have provided information and documentation to answer all of the questions posed by your department during this time to prove the validity of our relationship with the federal government.

How many more of our elders will pass and how many more of our tribal members will go without before we receive a decision? I have read all of the past speeches about the changes that are going to happen in regards to Tribal rights, education, health and welfare, and economic development under the present administration, from where I sit I don't see any difference today than yesterday. You more than anyone understand the importance of federal recognition to us or any tribe. We are asking for nothing more than what is right and in your power to allow, the federal recognition of the Tejon Indian Tribe.

Here is the statement you made about the confirmation process you went through,
""The confirmation process is very long and a little frustrating, because it takes so much time. So I'm glad that's over, and I just look forward to doing the work."
I ask that you put yourself in our position and understand our frustration with this whole process. The hard work of proving who we are through documentation is done, now all we are waiting on is for you to act.

I look forward your correspondence to our Chairwoman at your earliest opportunity.

Respectfully,

Nicole Flores
Tejon Indian Tribe