Atine, Patrese

From: jim appodaca[redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 2:02 AM
To: Echohawk, Larry; Echohawk, Larry; Tsosie, Paul
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Tejon Indian Tribe

FOIA6

Gentlemen,

I am writing this in hope that we can get resolution to our pursuit for federal recognition. We are coming up to the 12 month anniversary of our meeting with the Asst. Sec. At that time he told us we would get an answer to our recognition by Nov. 1, the time of our gathering for our cemetary cleanup. As you know the time came and went, and we have since that time waited patiently for a resolution.
I cannot begin to express my anger at the amount of time that has been allowed to pass since our initial submission in 2006. The leadership of this tribe has made numerous trips to DC to meet with members of the DOI in order to provide additional information that was requested, all at our own expense. Over the past 4 + years we have overcome the numerous obstacles that have been put in our path.
I understand the need for accuracy in the petitions that are submitted, but we have proven to the current administartion and the previous administration the validityof our request. So I am once again perplexed why we have not been put back on the list of federaly recognized tribes yet. What more can we do or provide that can make it any clearer?
We have lost tribal elders during this process and currently have some that are in failing health. I implore you to not look at our information as a stack of papers, but to look at it as the lives of this tribe. At what point does the welfare of this tribe become a priority to get it to the completion of our federal recognition? The Asst. Sec. has the abiltiy to get this accomplished now, he has all the information that we have waited on for the past 12 months, I ask that he accomplish this mission immediately.

Respectfully,

Jim Appodaca
Vice Chairman
Tejon Indian Tribe
[redacted]

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