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COUNCIL CLERK
CHARLETTE D. POCHÉ

July 24, 2014

MEMO TO: Michel H. Claudet,
Parish President

FROM: Charlette D. Poché *CP*
Council Clerk

RE: Houmas Indians Federal Recognition

Please allow this memo to confirm that the Council ratified the attached two resolutions, which indicate support of the Houmas Indians' efforts towards being federally recognized by Congress.

By copy of this memo, the appropriate staff members and individuals are being advised of this action.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

/cp

Attachments

cc: Parish Manager Al Levron
Parish Attorney Courtney Alcock

OFFERED BY: Ms. A. Williams.
SECONDED: Unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-358

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S
PROPOSED RULE TO REFORM THE FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (Department), prior to 1978, addressed requests for Tribal acknowledgement on an individual, case-by-case basis;

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Department established the Federal acknowledgement process (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*;

WHEREAS, Federal acknowledgement establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and programs.

WHEREAS, the Federal acknowledgement process has been the subject of more than 20 Congressional hearings and several government studies;

WHEREAS, these Congressional hearing and government reports found that the process can take decades to complete, cost millions of dollars, is applied inconsistently, and overly burdensome on the petitioners;

WHEREAS, in June 2013, the Department released a discussion draft of a proposal to reform the Federal acknowledgement process, and conducted a substantial amount of Tribal consultations and public meetings to receive public comments on the discussion draft;

WHEREAS, during the three-month comment period the Department received approximately 2,800 comments on the discussion draft and subsequently reviewed and incorporated responses to those comments;

WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Department published a proposed rule in the Federal Register which addresses many of the longstanding problems with the federal acknowledgement process, while maintaining a rigorous process to establish a government-to-government relationship between a petitioning tribe and the federal government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Terrebonne Parish Council, on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, hereby supports the Department's proposed rule to reform the Federal acknowledgement process.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: J. Navy, A. Williams, G. Hood, Sr., B. Amedée, C. Duplantis-Prather, R. Hornsby, D. Babin, D. Guidry and P. Lambert.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 21st day of July, 2014.

* * * * *

I, CHARLETTE D. POCHÉ, Council Clerk of the Terrebonne Parish Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Community Development and Planning Committee on July 21, 2014 and subsequently ratified by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on July 23, 2014 at which meeting a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS 24TH DAY OF
JULY, 2014.


CHARLETTE D. POCHÉ, COUNCIL CLERK
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL