

March 20, 2024

Deb Haaland, Secretary Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW.
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Urgent Request for your Investigation and Immediate attention

Dear Honorable Secretary Haaland,

I urgently request your direct intervention to help immediately overturn and stop possibly the first ever known ongoing case of tribal federal government identity theft! This travesty of justice began in November 2010, when the "Elem Indian Colony" (a.k.a. Sulphur Banks Indian Rancheria, Elem-Pomo tribe and the original name in 1906 the Eastlake tribe) a federally recognized tribal government, tribal elections was "illegally interfered" with by the former California Pacific Agency BIA Superintendent Troy Burdick.

The Superintendent's decision to illegally recognize a group of disenrolled former Elem Indian Colony members known as DELEMA, see **(Displaced Elem Lineage Emancipated Members Alliance v. Sacramento Area Director, BIA (1999) IBIA)** has resulted in the political takeover of our federally recognized Elem tribal government and included the loss of all tribal benefits and services and voting rights. First, these disenrolled insurgent former members, first order was to try to disenroll all the entire Elem tribal membership, their attorney created a new tribal policy of "Political Disenfranchisement" of tribal members that never before existed in our Constitution. Thus, resulted in ongoing Indian Civil Rights Violations of a total of seventy-nine (79) Elem tribal members, and our immediate family living on the Elem (Elem Indian Colony) federally trust homelands in Lake County, California.

This November 2024 will mark 14 years (2010-2024), of our Political Disenfranchisement, while these disenrolled fake Elem tribal representatives continue to defraud millions of dollars from the "American Taxpayers" through Federal, State grants, and the Indian Gaming Revenue Fund. While they abandoned the federally recognized trust lands in Lake County and moved their tribal government offices two counties away into Sonoma County.

While our real Elem tribal members and families who were never disenrolled are left to survive under harsh political, economic, social and cultural hardships while directly denied all Federally funded BIA tribal services, ICWA, etc. including COVID 19 funds, and denied full benefits and Indian Health services funded through the Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, inc.

According to the IBIA federal records, all the members of DELEMA had "given up their membership in the Elem Colony", as prescribed in the federal court case: **Displaced Elem Lineage Emancipated Members Alliance v. Sacramento Area Director, BIA (1999) 34 IBIA.**

The brief history of the above case: In 1999 Thirty-four (34) of our now former Elem tribal members filed a lawsuit against the BIA Area Director for their right to have their own Federal Tribal government status. They Lost in federal court!

I was the elected Elem tribal chairman from 1998-2000, and I can validate that I nor any Tribal Council member(s) never received any notice or official correspondence from the BIA Area Director, nor the Superintendent of the Pacific Regency during one of the most important federal court cases directly involving our Elem tribal membership status and our tribal sovereignty. We were excluded and not consulted plus not notified of the results of this federal case. Thus, allowed these tribal insurgents disenrolled former members to overthrow our federally recognized tribal government!

I'm seeking legal assistance to file a Cease and Desist Order against this fraudulent tribe who has been illegally using millions of U.S. Taxpayer dollars in a name of a tribe that they legally disenrolled themselves from in 1999 and with BIA's illegal recognition of DELEMA's October 2010 election (Elem Indian Colony Constitution requires Elections to be held in November, every two years) since 2010 with the BIA's approval this "Tribal Identity Theft" has been condoned and covered up and all our members Blacklisted

While at this time our community is faced with the ongoing U.S. EPA Superfund projects major work. Our community had to create a Non-profit organization just to be at the table with the EPA Superfund project, as the tribe abandoned the federal trust lands, closed down the Elem tribal environmental department and destroyed all the tribal cultural artifacts collected and housed at Elem's certified collection department.

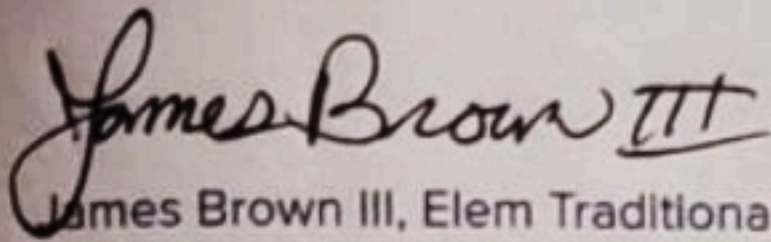
As a reminder all of this political turmoil and unrest that divided my tribe and our loss of our sovereignty, and Indian Civil Rights was the result of our Elem tribal government planning to file a major lawsuit over the 2006 EPA Superfund projects Subcontractor who directly violated Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. In 2010 the tribal council gave me authorization as the Elem Tribal Administrator to find a Law firm who specialize in environmental law. Before I could find a firm our tribal government politically shut down. This includes closing the Elem Tribal office and confiscating all tribal membership and financial records.

Due to the ongoing coverup by both DELEMA and the BIA Regional Director and Agency Superintendent I felt directly compelled to further expose this federal corruption on my website now open, please go to eastlaketribe.com I've provided copies of all these records from the federal archives as my proof. In addition, I plan to notify all the National tribes and tribal organizations, federal, state, county officials and funding agencies of this illegal activity and fraud being perpetrated in the name of the Elem Indian Colony tribal government.

Please feel free to contact me at my email: browneaglejames@gmail.com or, Cell phone (707) 350-5853 or at eastlaketribe.com I hope you will have the political courage to help us address and stop this illegal act of Tribal Identity Theft and tax payer fraud!

As a 71 year old tribal elder who spent the majority of my life as a key tribal government employee, and champion Indian Self-determination since 1974 and Elected tribal official and traditional Elder. I will continue to expose this injustice until our true Elem tribal government officials have been reinstated and back incharge as tribal Sovereigns by the Federal Government. I invite all Federal, State, County and Tribal officials to take a critical review of our documents posted on the website and I also will be contacting the news media outlets to my website.

All My Relations



James Brown III, Elem Traditional Elder & Tribal Citizen

CC: Federal Officials:

Byran T. Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior,

Brian Schatz Chairman Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

State of California officials:

James C. Ramos, Assemblymen,

Christina Snider-Ashtari, Tribal Affairs Secretary office of the Governor,

Sara Dutschke, Director Native American Heritage Commission,

Commissioners of the California's Truth and Healing Council,

Lake County Board of Supervisors

National Organizations: Cali Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

Department of Justice

Internal Revenue Service