

Tribal Alliance Against Frauds
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Position Statement: Opposing the Lumbee Federal Recognition Effort

Cherokee, NC, May 19.— A clear stance is being taken against the misguided push for federal recognition of the group claiming to be the "Lumbee tribe" in North Carolina. It is imperative to assert that the Lumbee do not qualify for tribal recognition. They lack the historical foundation and documentation that are essential for any legitimate American Indian tribe.

The Lumbee have no historical treaties, trading records, or genealogical links to recognized tribal nations. Their identity has morphed over the past 150 years, evolving based on political convenience rather than any substantiated historical connection.

The group of individuals who call themselves Lumbee possesses a noteworthy history in North Carolina as people whose ancestry traces to Africa and European descent. Their attempts to claim tribal status represent a blatant appropriation of Indigenous identity, which undermines the genuine experiences of established American Indian nations. The Lumbee Act of 1956 acknowledged the name 'Lumbee Indians,' yet explicitly stated they are not recognized as a sovereign tribal nation and are ineligible for benefits designated for treaty tribes based on petitions that lack legitimate genealogies of American Indian blood. This act, a result of political compromise, was a step towards recognition but fell short of establishing the Lumbee as a fully recognized tribe due to the lack of historical evidence.

The Lumbee group's repeated applications for federal recognition have been rightfully rejected. Instead of engaging in the established federal acknowledgment process, a rigorous procedure that requires substantial historical evidence and proven genealogy, they attempt to circumvent it through the proposed Lumbee Fairness Act. This unacceptable tactic sidesteps the necessary scrutiny to verify their legitimacy as a tribal nation.

Furthermore, the Lumbees' designation as a tribal entity by the state of North Carolina directly harms legitimate American Indian tribes, notably the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which is the only federally recognized tribe in the state. Despite lacking a government-to-government relationship with the United States, the "Lumbees" are considered a tribal entity by North Carolina. State status has led to receiving federal funds, such as millions of dollars from Indian housing programs. The Trump administration is asking Congress to cut as part of its fiscal year 2026 budget proposal. This misuse of federal funds is a cause for concern. "Overall, the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina received more than \$78 million awarded by ten programs in six federal

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agencies during the four years' a [report from the Government Accountability Office in 2012](#) stated." (Monday, May 12, 2025, by Acee Agoyo, Indianz.com)

Advocates such as the Tribal Alliance Against Frauds and American Indian tribes will not ignore this issue, and the real implications for legitimate American Indian communities must be recognized and addressed.

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