

*Office of the Governor
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*



20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

May 24, 2017

The Hon. Mitchell McConnell
Majority Leader, US Senate

The Hon. Paul Ryan
Speaker, US House of Representatives

Dear Sen. McConnell & Rep. Ryan:

I write to share my strong support for full federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe here in North Carolina. The tribe enjoys bi-partisan support among North Carolina's Congressional Delegation for full federal recognition.

North Carolina formally recognized the Lumbee Tribe in 1885, and a few years later the tribe began its pursuit for federal recognition. In 1956, Congress passed the Lumbee Act recognizing the tribe, however, this law specifically denied the benefits that every other federally recognized tribe receives.

Full federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe will enhance economic opportunity and job creation in one of the nation's poorest counties in the United States and help much of the southeastern region of North Carolina. This recognition will allow the Lumbee tribe to access health care, education, housing and child care benefits. Our Lumbee citizens should not have to endure this injustice any longer. The tribe deserves full recognition along with its benefits.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper

cc: North Carolina Congressional Delegation