



**Sac River and White River Bands of
Chickamauga Cherokee Indian Nation**

119 White Dove Lane
Thornfield MO 65762

Chief Kay Stockton
918-473-6677

RECEIVED

SEP 24 2013

ASIA-OFA

Elizabeth Appel
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
US Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St NW, MS 4141
Washington, DC 20204

Re: 1076-AF18

Dear Ms. Appel,

Below please find comments on behalf of the Sac River/White River Bands of the Northern Chickamauga Cherokee Nation pertaining to the proposed changes to the Federal Recognition Regulations.

The Sac River/White River Bands filed a letter of intent on Sep. 5, 1991 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We were acknowledged by Missouri Governor Christopher Bond by proclamation in 1983. We were recognized again in 1984 by the Missouri House of Representatives. Then in 1996 we were given a second proclamation of acknowledgement by then Governor Mel Carnahan, formally recognizing us as an old historical tribe in the state of Missouri. (Please see attachments).

We can document our history back to the 1700's, but that is not the issue. Please see the attached laws that were implemented to deal with the Indians in the state of Missouri and these laws were in effect for many years. This is the reason our people had to scatter all over Missouri, and Arkansas. We had to hide out because of these laws, making a "continued community" almost impossible.

Does this mean we are not Cherokee and do not deserve the same opportunities as the others? Does this wipe out our eligibility for recognition, because the US Government forced our people to live that way?

You are correct, the Federal Recognition Regulations need to be changed, and these changes are long overdue!

One other comment we would like to make, pertains to the in-house anti-Indian sovereignty groups, people from recognized tribes, who want to prevent other non- recognized tribes from being acknowledged.

Tribes may possess all the things that are required within the CFR, but because most non-recognized tribes lack input into BIA politics (as lobbyist) the chances of succeeding are almost nil. If real changes are to be made it must include changes within the BIA recognition staff itself.

We appreciate this extended time frame to allow us to respond to this very important issue, and we stand behind you in this challenge of change.

Sincerely,

Chief, Kay Stockton
White River/Sac River Bands of the Northern Cherokee Nation, Inc.

Cc: President, Barack Obama
US Senate Commissioner of Interior Affairs
Lee Fleming, Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgement