



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

commenting on new BIA recognition rules

Mike Ford <choctaw70ison@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Mike Ford <choctaw70ison@yahoo.com>
To: "consultation@bia.gov" <consultation@bia.gov>

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:35 PM

2014, May 20,

TO: Bureau of Indian Affairs

FROM: Mike Ford, Choctaw descendant and researcher

I'm writing my comment on the second period of commenting on the proposed BIA regulations for federal recognition. In particular I'm writing about the double standards being proposed in Connecticut.

I don't understand how tribes can like the Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugusset, or Paucatuck Pequot

Nation or even the Nipmuc Nation in Massachusetts who appeared in the PBS series "We Shall Remain"

can have state reserved lands from colonial times and not have these proposed new regulations benefit them.

I remember when the debacle between BIA officials Aurene Martin, Glenn McCaleb, US Secretary of the Interior

Gale Norton, and Virginia US Senator Frank Wolf took place with the Schaghticoke Tribe and Paucatuck Pequot

Nation. How can one talk about ending the two classes of tribes problem with the Carcieri fix and cast a blind eye

to the miscarriage of justice occurring in Connecticut? This colony violated the Indian Non Intercourse act of 1790

treating directly with tribes, assigning them reservation lands, and selling them off without an act of the US

Congress as prescribed by the Commerce Clause of the US Constitution which give the US Congress plenary powers over Indian Affairs. The Narragansett Tribe sued Rhode Island for this violation which is why their Land

Claims Settlement Act of 1978 took place. The same can be said for the Mashantucket Pequot Land Claims

Settlement Act of 1983 that took place. Connecticut sold off Schaghticoke and Paugusset lands without consultation

in the past. I've seen in print how the Connecticut politicians are complaining about the undue pressure put on

them if these tribes are federally recognized. Too bad. Their forefathers should've considered that problem as they

were committing land theft and attempting genocide three or four centuries ago. If the Connecticut politicians get

their way and long overdue justice is tossed aside again these states will still be getting away with theft and these

rule changes for federal recognition will be nothing more than White people pressuring Indigenous people to keep

things the way they are. US Indian Policy is historically rift with the Federal Government finding Indigenous

peoples to do the work of the greater population against the wellbeing and interests of their own people. I

live in Kansas but my late mother's ancestors were overlooked by the Dawes Commission when they applied for

allotment lands in Indian Territory from the Mississippi/Alabama Gulf Coast where my mother's family

lived ancestrally. The person I refer to as example of the circumstances above is former US Vice President and

Kaw/Pottawatomie/French descendant Charles Curtis who backstabbed the Five Civilized Tribes with the Curtis

Amendment to the Dawes Allotment Act of 1887. His amendment took place in 1898 and allowed the full

dissolution of tribal governments and lands to take place so that Oklahoma Statehood could occur. Why

should these proposed BIA Regulations allow the same treatment to occur in Connecticut that existed

previously? I read about a US Government that joined the Passamaquoddy and other indigenous nations

of Maine in suing for justice when this state and the Colony of Massachusetts violated the Indian Non Intercourse

Act of 1790 by taking these tribe's ancestral lands without an act of the US Congress in the 1970's

and eventually getting tribal lands back in 1980. Why I must I now read in 2014 about a BIA that's complicit

in allowing a defendant state like Connecticut to maintain the status quo of land theft and denial of justice?

As a lifelong Democrat and a Choctaw descendant I expect this kind of chicanery from Republicans.....not my own

political party.

Sincerely,

Mike Ford

Mike Ford
1415 High Street
Baldwin City, KS
66006
785 764 8821
choctaw70ison@yahoo.com