



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

Comments on Proposed Federal Acknowledgement Rule Changes

Alex Fields <alexfields1959@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 14, 2014 at 12:42 PM

To: consultation@bia.gov

Cc: achoctaw@yahoo.com

I'm writing to express my general support for the proposed changes in the direction of greater fairness and transparency in the acknowledgement process. The changes, for example, of "historical" to mean prior to 1900 as opposed to 1789, and to the year 1934 as the year from which tribes must demonstrate continuous community, are positive steps. I particularly support the elimination of the external identification in the criteria "A."

I am not myself a member of an American Indian community, but I have close connections to those who are-- including my grandfather, whose parents were both Blackfoot Sioux from Oklahoma, and several good friends. I'd also like to voice my support for the Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb in their decades-long attempt to gain federal recognition; I have personal friends in that community and know that their community and tradition are important, authentic, and very much alive, and that they deserve formal recognition.

Sincerely,

Alex Fields