

Tucker, Anne D.
**7/20/2000 Letter from Tribal Administrator, Muscogee Nation of
Florida, to Board of County Commissioners
Liberty County, Florida,
Office of Federal Acknowledgment Administrative Files**



Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians

P.O. Box 3028 Bruce, FL 32455
Phone: (850)835-2078 Fax: (850)835-5691

20 July 2000

TO: Liberty County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians
Anne Tucker - Tribal Administrator
through
Sally Keever and Sherrie Branch - Tribal Council Representatives

RE: Request for County Commissioner Letter of Support and Tribal Office Space

Tribal Background:

In 1978, the Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council (NFCIC), a state government appointed council, created the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians. The boundaries of the Florida Tribe were re-established for the census bureau in 1990 and are from Escambia County east to the Suwanee River. (See attached census documentation) The Florida Tribe is the *only* state recognized tribe in Florida. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Copies are in this package.

Tribal Membership:

The Florida Tribe represents over 1500 Creek households and serves 2200 tribal members across Northwest Florida. A tribal member must meet 3 requirements to be able to join the Florida Tribe:

- 1) direct documented blood ties to a Creek Indian who lived in historic Creek Nation before 1815 or was removed to Oklahoma because of government removal policies;
- 2) eligibility or receipt of docket land claim settlements from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (sample letter attached) known as Docket 21, 272, or 275;
- 3) membership in a Creek family that settled in Florida before 1895.

It is the belief of the Tribal Council that if a person cannot meet these 3 requirements, he or she cannot be considered a documented Florida Creek Indian. In 1995, the tribe filed a petition for federal acknowledgement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is in the 1st Technical Review stage of this process. The tribe has the support of Chief James Billie and the Seminole Nation of Florida. However, local government support is also very important to the Florida Tribe.

Project Office: 6 Lakeshore Dr. Shufinar, FL 32579

TEL: (850)609-1012

Fax: (850)609-3169

Tribal Needs from the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners:

1) The Florida Tribe respectfully requests a letter from the Liberty County Commissioners that will include this type of statement:

“ The Liberty County Commissioners fully supports the federal acknowledgement of the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Florida Tribe is the governing agent for Creek Indians living in the state of Florida. Creek families that belong to this tribe have been a part of our county for well over 100 years and have been known as Creek Indians throughout our communities.”

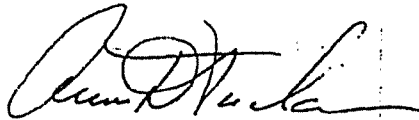
This letter can be given to your Tribal Council Representative but should be addressed to:

Chairman John A. 'Brick' Mason
Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians
P.O. Box 3028
Bruce, Florida 32455

2) The Florida Tribe requests office space for a satellite office that can be used to serve the Creek families in Liberty County.

The Bristol-Blountstown Indian Community is one of four major settlements of historic Creek families that make up the Florida Tribe. By allowing a satellite office in your county, the Liberty County Commissioners will help us better serve our Creek members. Your local governmental support will strengthen the Florida Tribe's position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C. Federal Recognition means that this tribe will be allowed to receive funds for education, health care, aid to the elderly, and better housing for our members. In other words, the Florida Tribe's success in this process will directly affect the quality of life of the rural Indian people in your county.

Please feel free to contact me at (850)835-2078 if you need any additional information. I thank you for your attention to this matter on behalf of our Chairman, our Tribal Council, and the members of the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians.



Anne D. Tucker
Tribal Administrator