



SMALL TRIBES ORGANIZATION of WESTERN WASHINGTON

P. O. Box 578/Sumner, Washington 98390/(206) 593-2894

September 19, 1975

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Kent Frizzell  
Acting Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
19th and C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Frizzell:

This legal document is a petition of the Cowlitz Tribe of Indians for Federal recognition as a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe is not presently recognized as an Indian tribe. The petition contains legal arguments about why the Cowlitz Tribe should be granted Federal recognition. It also contains documentation supporting the legal arguments.

The petition argues that the Cowlitz Tribe is an existing tribal entity and has been recognized by the Federal Government as existing. The petition demonstrates that the Cowlitz Tribe has tribal existence and has had and continues to have legal relations with the Federal Government.

The Cowlitz Tribe believes that it should be treated like other recognized Indian tribes. It wants to qualify for Federal programs and receive Federal services as a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe needs to be recognized to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act, 48 Stat. 984 (1934). The Act has many provisions potentially beneficial to the tribe.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider the Cowlitz Tribe's request for Federal recognition.

Respectfully,

*Frank S. La Fontaine*

Frank S. La Fontaine  
Attorney for the Cowlitz  
Tribe of Indians