

Exemption 6

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2016

Jon M. Ausman

(b) (6)

DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

6 January 2015

Mr. R. Lee Fleming
Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attn: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Fleming:

I support the recognition of the Muscogee Nation of Florida by the United States Department of the Interior. The Muscogee Nation of Florida is Petitioner 032. A Federal Register notice asking for comment on the petition was published in the Federal Register on 28 November 2015.

It has been my pleasure to participate in six (6) years of ceremonial busks with the Muscogee Nation of Florida at their Ekvnv Hvtke Tribal Town. There are four (4) major busks (Little Green Corn, Harvest, Berry and Green Corn) and two (2) minor busks (Soup and Wild Onion) which occur each year.

Of the thirty-six (36) busks I have participated in thirty (30).

During this time period I declare as a first hand witness that the Muscogee Nation of Florida has maintained their Muscogee identify and self-governance.

In conversations and by listening during teachings over six (6) years I know that the Muscogee Nation of Florida has met all seven (7) of the mandatory criteria in order to achieve acknowledgment for Federal recognition.

For more than a decade I have been the Federal Grants Manager for transit projects for the Florida Department of Transportation. I know through personal experience all the steps which must be taken to be awarded Federal grants. The Muscogee Nation of Florida has met the criteria for Federal recognition.

As a side note my wife is a Blackfoot Medicine Woman. She also believes the Department of the Interior should extend Federal recognition to the Muscogee Nation of Florida. She believes they have met all seven (7) of the mandatory criteria.

If you have any questions you can either email me at (b) (6) or call me at (b) (6).

#01-12