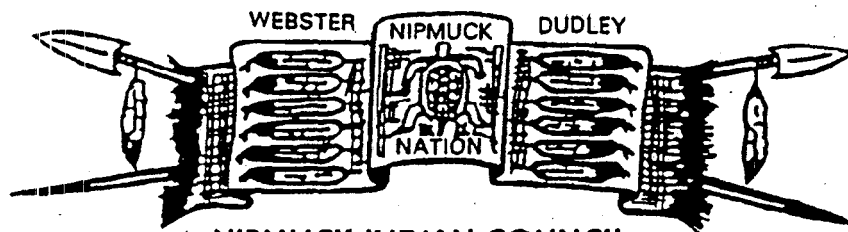


Place of Many Beautiful Lakes



NIPMUCK INDIAN COUNCIL
OF CHAUBUNAGUNGAMAUG

22 May 1996

Received BAP
MAY 31 1996
HR

Ms. Holly Reckord
Chief
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Branch of Acknowledgement and Research
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Holly:

I am writing you at this time to inform you of the decision of the Chaubunagungamaug Band regarding its petition of Federal Recognition presently with the Bureau of Acknowledgement and Research.

On May 8, 1996, as Chief of the Chaubunagungamaug Band, I informed a committee meeting of Nipmuck Indians of the decision of the Chaubunagungamaug Band to proceed for recognition solely on its own. We will not be allied, associated, or affiliated with the Hassanimisco Band or any other group of Nipmuck Indians.

There have been excessive irreconcilable differences between us and the Hassanimisco Band and others, and it is our decision to separate. Among these differences have been improper and incomplete genealogies to the extent that many of the members of the Hassanimisco Band and others cannot be proven to be Nipmuck Indians and have subsequently delayed, denied or withheld information regarding genealogies. There have been overt attempts to keep incriminating evidence from surfacing. This is not acceptable to me and my Band.

280 Keys Road RFD . West Brookfield MA 01585 . (413) 436-5506 . FAX (413) 436-0406

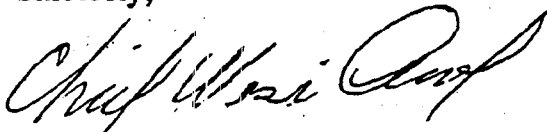
In addition, there have been movements to control the Chaubunagungamaug Band through manipulation of committee members and the application of financial leverage. There has been collusion between some so-called Nipmucks and outside financial "partners" that excludes Chaubunagungamaug Band members and keeps information from us.

There have been innumerable additional situations that need not be addressed at this point. We have tried throughout this process to settle our disagreements reasonably, but without success. Suffice it to say that we have made our decision and want to keep you informed so that appropriate actions may be initiated. It is our understanding that our Chaubunagungamaug petition will maintain its current status with the Bureau of Acknowledgement and Research, and that we will receive a proposed finding sometime in September of 1996.

What started years ago to be a synergistic relationship between the Chaubunagungamaug and the Hassanimisco has deteriorated irretrievably into a morass of dishonor to which the Chaubunagungamaug will not be a party. Historically, the Nipmuck nation was a loosely knit association of bands. There was no overall governmental organization. We simply functioned as autonomous bands with incidental contact and interaction. Apparently our fathers knew best, for we will return to and maintain that structure.

Please advise us as to the next steps. I will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Chief Wise Owl