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LOUIE BERNARD
State Senator ~ District 31

July 10, 2023

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment Mail Stop 4071 MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux petition #402

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of Petition #402 for Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux as the tribe endeavors to achieve federal recognition.

Over the years I have attended several tribal gatherings and collaborated with their chief, Rodger Collum. I worked with Roger on a fundraiser to reestablish the Pace Community Center. Originally built as a school for the tribe's children, the Center attests to the tribe's desire to preserve buildings and tradition that have significant tribal history. The Tribe makes other contributions to the community, including distribution of produce for the Tribe's garden to the needy and the elderly of both the Tribe and others in the local area.

I have known Roger Collum for most of my life, and I have witnessed his leadership qualities and his care and concern for his family, tribe and community. I fully support the petition of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux in their request for federal recognition.

Please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louie Bernard", written over a horizontal line.

Louie Bernard
Senate District 31