

# LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## District 22 Office

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## **MICHAEL "GABE" FIRMENT** **State Representative ~ District 22**

COMMITTEES:  
Insurance  
Transportation, Highways  
and Public Works  
Retirement

July 11, 2023

Department of the Interior  
Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs  
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgement  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
MS-4071-MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Petition #402 Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux (BBB), LA

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as evidence of my full support for the petition for federal acknowledgment submitted by the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux. As the District 22 state representative I have had the opportunity to interact with Chief Rodger Collum and members of the tribe on several occasions over the past few years. I had the honor of visiting the sacred graves of tribal ancestors, and I have personally witnessed the pride members of the Butte Tribe have in their special heritage and traditions.

Chief Collum and tribal leaders work tirelessly to help their community through addiction recovery programs, a communal garden, participation in parades and special events, and personal counseling. Getting to know Chief Collum and members of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux has been one of the greatest pleasures I have had as state representative. Please consider their application for federal acknowledgment. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me at (318)201-6769. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabe Firment". The signature is stylized with a large "G" and a cursive "F".

Gabe Firment  
District 22 State Representative  
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