



NATCHITOCHES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
R. Stuart Wright, Sheriff & Ex-Officio Tax Collector

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July 12, 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,

I am writing this letter to support Petition #402 for the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux as a true Natchitoches Parish Native American tribe.

As a public official, I have attended numerous tribal gatherings. Chief Rodger Collum is an upstanding leader of his community. In times of emergency preparedness, he has assisted the sheriff's office in the rescue of flood victims, fires, and disorderly conduct of his people in the Pace and Bayou Bourbeaux communities of Natchitoches Parish. During the 2016 flood, his knowledge of his tribal land and experience at guiding rescue teams through flood waters, saved the lives of many people as well as aided in the search of drowned victims.

Chief Collum has advised the Natchitoches Sheriff's Office that his tribe is in the first phases of organization in the creation of the Butte Tribe Celebrate Recovery group (BTCR) as they join with the Celebrate Recovery Native Nations (CR). The mission of CR Native Nations is to bring the gospel to Native American peoples within the borders of the United States, who are faced with staggering rates of alcoholism, abuse, poverty and suicide. This project promises to be a very much needed support group for the people of his community.

Rodger Collum and I have been lifelong friends, and I have witnessed his leadership qualities in his family and his care for the community. The yearly produce from the tribe's gardens is distributed to tribe members and then shared with the local community, especially to the elderly.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Wright".

Stuart Wright, Sheriff