



UINTAH COUNTY
STATE OF UTAH
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SHERIFF – Steve Labrum
SURVEYOR - Brock Slaugh
TREASURER - Wendi Long

October 14, 2025

To whom it may concern;

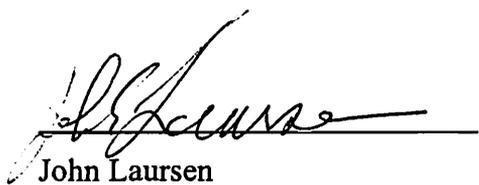
We were asked to respond to the recent petition for federal recognition submitted by the Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah (AUC). Uintah County acknowledges and respects the history of the mixed-blood Ute people in northeastern Utah. We have worked together on numerous occasions throughout the history of our County. They are our neighbours and friends. However, as it pertains to the request for federal acknowledgment, this petition should be categorically denied. We do not believe federal recognition is a legally viable nor is it appropriate.

The AUC was terminated as a federally recognized tribe when Congress enacted the Ute Partition and Termination Act of 1954, *Pub. L. No. 83-671*, 68 Stat. 868 (25 U.S.C. § 677). The legislative record of the 1954 Act demonstrates Congress's intent to make the termination process final. Section 677v of Title 25 clearly states that the termination of federal supervision "shall completely terminate the Federal trust relationship" with the mixed-blood Utes. The federal acknowledgment process utilized by the AUC was not designed for tribes that have been terminated by Congress. It is designed for those tribes which have not been recognized by the Federal government.

Since the AUC was terminated, AUC has demonstrated a pattern of litigious behavior that has created difficulties for Uintah County. On December 12, 2012 the Shoshone Tribe of the Uinta Valley and Ouray Reservation, a.k.a. Affiliated Ute Citizens, recorded a 250-page notice of claim asserting jurisdiction over hundreds of thousands of acres in Uintah County and other neighboring counties. This acted as a lien against private properties in Uintah County. The filing of this document was improper and based on unfounded jurisdictional claims. Uintah County spent much time and resources remedying this action. Further, members of the AUC have refused to pay taxes and state law obligations, further demonstrating the administrative and legal burdens and

complications that federal recognition would create for our County and the federally-recognized Ute tribe.

For this reason, and in accordance with 25 C.F.R. § 83.4(c), Uintah County requests that the petition of the Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah be denied. The congressional termination of 1954 remains in effect, and if restoration is granted, it must come from Congress. Recognition through administrative action would exceed regulatory authority, create numerous jurisdictional legal and administrative problems, and undermine the integrity of the federal acknowledgment process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Laursen', is written over a solid horizontal line.

John Laursen

Commission Chair