



**A RESOLUTION OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL
OF THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS TO
OPPOSE LEGISLATIVE FEDERAL
RECOGNITION OF THE LUMBEE GROUP
OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

RESOLUTION 2026-13

Sponsored by Brad KillsCrow

WHEREAS, the Delaware Tribal Council is authorized by Article V of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to represent and act in all matters that concern the general welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Tribe's governing body is the Delaware Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the federal acknowledgment process established by Congress and administered by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment requires comprehensive historical, genealogical, and political documentation to demonstrate continuous tribal existence and governance—standards that have been uniformly applied to all petitioning groups; and

WHEREAS, the Lumbee group has pursued federal recognition primarily through congressional legislation rather than through the established administrative process used by the majority of federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to bypass the Department of the Interior's administrative process through special legislation would undermine the fairness, consistency, precedent, and credibility of the federal acknowledgment system; and

WHEREAS, opposition to legislative recognition of the Lumbee group is rooted solely in the need to preserve the integrity, transparency, equity, and sustainability of the federal acknowledgment process and is not based on questioning the community's identity or heritage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians opposes any legislative effort to grant federal recognition to the Lumbee group outside the established administrative process of the Department of the Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Delaware Tribe of Indians urges members of Congress to require the Lumbee group to follow the same rigorous, transparent, and equitable federal acknowledgment process that all other petitioning groups have lawfully completed; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council directs the Executive Assistant to transmit this resolution to the Delaware Tribal Council, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the Department of the Interior.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing was considered by the Delaware Tribal Council of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and adopted this 5 day of DECEMBER 2025 with a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstaining.



Brad KillsCrow, Chief



Attested by: Lindsey Harris, Secretary

