



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe

Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)

Resolution: 08-16-2022 Resolution # 01-2022 (NN-Twin Arrows)

Resolution in support of the “Opposition to federal or state recognition of the ‘Lumbee Tribe,’ ‘MOWA Band of Choctaw,’ or any other group claiming to be a tribal nation that seeks to circumvent of the Department of the Interior’s Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) process”

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe, and is Chaired by President Kevin Killer, Oglala Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, COLT seeks to educate the United States Congress, the Executive Administration, the public, and other tribes regarding the unique issues impacting tribes that govern large land bases; and

WHEREAS, COLT further advocates for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms that impact large land base tribes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that would federally recognize two groups—the “Lumbee Tribe” (S. 1364 and H.R. 2758) and the “MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians” (S. 3443)—as sovereign tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, both bills would circumvent the Department of the Interior’s Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) process that considers petitions from groups claiming to be tribal nations; and



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WHEREAS, the OFA has reviewed the MOWA Choctaw petition in part and determined that 99 percent of the MOWA Choctaw membership cannot demonstrate Native ancestry at all; and

WHEREAS, the Lumbee have avoided the OFA process altogether and, instead, have sought federal recognition from Congress as four different and unrelated tribes—Croatan, Siouan (a language family), Cherokee, and Cheraw—and genealogists have determined that most Lumbee families cannot demonstrate Native ancestry at all; and

WHEREAS, the Lumbees have over 60,000 members today, which, if federally recognized, would make them one of the largest tribes by population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scored the cost of the “Lumbee Recognition Act” to the BIA and IHS budgets at \$846 million over five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the CBO has not re-scored the Lumbee bill, but the cost of this one bill to the BIA and IHS budgets in today’s dollars would exceed \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, in response to a study published by the American Indian Policy Review Commission, and with the support of the National Congress of American Indians, the Department of the Interior established an agency now called the OFA to administer a fact-based process to determine whether a group claiming to be an historical tribe or tribes should be recognized by the United States as a sovereign tribal nation; and

WHEREAS, at the OFA, experts in history, genealogy, and anthropology determine whether a group meets the criteria to be federally recognized as an tribal nation; and

WHEREAS, without OFA review to discern fact from fiction, the Congress makes federal recognition decisions based on politics and emotion rather than merit; and

WHEREAS, the OFA process protects established Tribal Nations from arbitrary and political acknowledgment of groups claiming to be tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, some states have acknowledged groups claiming to be tribes as tribes, including Lumbee in North Carolina and MOWA in Alabama, without processes that closely evaluate tribal and Native ancestry claims; and

WHEREAS, recognition of groups claiming to be tribal nations with uncertain status as historical tribes and without a close review of claims to Native ancestry imperils the government-to-



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government relationship between the United States and federally recognized tribal nations, including the large land base Tribal Nations in COLT.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) calls on Congressional Delegations to oppose the “Lumbee Recognition Act” (S. 1364/H.R. 2758), the “MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians Recognition Act” (S. 3443), and other federal and state actions that would circumvent the Department of the Interior’s Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) process.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held on Navajo Nation, Twin Arrows Casino, 22181 Resort Blvd. Flagstaff, AZ on August 16th, 2022 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this August 16th, 2022

Attest:

Nathan Small, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes

Kevin Killer, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes