



POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

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Tribal Offices: (251) 368-9136

www.poarchcreekindians-nsn.gov

Dear Tribal Leader,

As the leader of one sovereign nation to another, I am writing to make sure that you have accurate information concerning the development of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Wetumpka, Alabama trust land. Poarch Creek has taken the utmost care to preserve our tribal history and culture while undertaking projects that assure the financial stability of our Tribal government and jobs for our people.

Development of Poarch Creek trust lands near Wetumpka is the subject of an increasingly belligerent misinformation campaign run by a handful of individuals from Hickory Ground town and the Muskogee Nation in Oklahoma. These men have made violent threats toward our tribal members, employees, customers and property. They have also attempted to intimidate, threaten, and humiliate our Tribal leadership at national gatherings in Indian Country.

One of the leaders of this group was arrested on Poarch Creek trust property last year after he threatened to burn down our casino. He was subsequently convicted of disorderly conduct and trespassing in an Alabama state court. Even after this incident, this individual and other members of his group have harassed and accosted Poarch Creek tribal leaders at multiple national Indian gatherings. Clearly, these are threats to our reputation and our safety that we take very seriously.

Attached is a Fact Sheet to help clarify this issue. If you would like to discuss any of these issues or have additional questions, I and other Members of the Poarch Creek Council would be happy to talk more with you.

We think it is important to remember that, first and foremost, no one is more aware of the importance of preserving Poarch's history and culture than we are. We remain committed to the integrity of our Tribe and are actively involved in ensuring the future of Indian Country. We are proud that Chief Calvin McGhee helped craft the Declaration of Indigenous Purpose and that he had the honor of presenting this document to President Kennedy. Former Chairmen Buford L. Rolin and Eddie Tullis continue to provide leadership roles throughout Indian Country in their work on Healthcare, Aging, and Sovereignty. Our Tribal Council Vice Chairman Robbie McGhee serves on the boards of the Native American Rights Fund, the Center for Native American Youth, the National Indian Child Welfare Association and our entire Tribal Council continuously advocates to strengthen national tribal Indian policy on issues related to education, VAWA, health care, child welfare, taxation, trust lands protection and other areas of importance to all Tribes.

In closing, we remain hopeful that these individuals who are now involved in unproductive and divisive activities will come to understand that our strength, as sovereign Indian nations, depends on our ability to work together on solving the problems and meeting the challenges that affect us all while maintaining the crucial tenets of sovereignty and self-determination. It's a dangerous road for all of Indian country to take when one sovereign seeks to enforce its will on the trust lands of another.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Bryan, Tribal Chair
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Seeking Prosperity and Self Determination