

Umkumiut Tribal Council

PO Box 90062

Nightmute, Alaska 99690

Phone (907) 647.6145 Fax (907) 647.6146



Dear Congressional Leaders;

I am writing to express Umkumiut Tribal Council opposition to H.R. 2824 and to urge you to oppose this termination bill. H.R. 2824 would sever the Cherokee Nation's government-to-government relationship with United States. It goes directly against the current federal policy of self-determination and thus constitutes a threat to all tribes in the United States.

Joe Garcia, President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), wrote in opposition to this bill: "**It is outrageous to propose to terminate the existence of an Indian Nation...** This is an uncalled for response to a legal question to treaty interpretation. **When Alabama or California takes an action inconsistent with Congressional views, there is no discussion of revoking their statehood.** The attempt to revoke tribal nationhood is equally wrong. Not since the Termination Era of the 1950's, when the official policy of the federal government was complete destruction of indigenous peoples, have we seen such a piece of legislation. NCAI was founded to oppose termination of Indian tribes."

Termination became federal Indian policy in 1953. Its express purpose was assimilation, and its means for achieving its goal were the dissolution of Indian landholdings, the weakening of tribal governments, and the end of federal funding. By the time the policy ended, 109 Indian tribes had been terminated. Nearly forty years ago, President Lyndon Johnson renounced the termination policy and ushered in the current policy of tribal self-determination, stating: "We must affirm the rights of the first Americans to remain Indians while exercising their rights as Americans." Let us not turn back the clock on our hard-won rights to a time in which Indian tribes were fighting for their very existence.

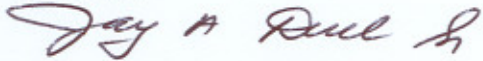
There are 567 federally recognized tribes in the United States. We do not expect to agree on every issue. But the issue of termination is a straightforward one. Termination destroys the ability of the tribe to take care of its people. The U.S. government's relationship with a federally recognized tribes is the lifeline of every Indian nation. Let us unite in opposing this archaic and destructive bill.

Please vote **no** to termination bill H.R. 2824.

I also ask for your support in fighting a proposed series of aggressive Congressional amendments that jeopardize the health, food security and safety of both the Cherokee Nation and Indians. The legislative and policy impact that these amendments would have on services, especially the health care clinics, would harm the citizens of dozens of tribes.

I urge you not to support the dangerous precedent of political intimidation through legislative and financial penalties. This political act is simply termination by another name and could create a grave precedent for all tribes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay A. Dull Sr." in dark ink.

Honorable Jay A. Dull Sr.
President of the Umkumiut Tribal Council