

BEAR RIVER BAND of ROHNERVILLE RANCHERIA
27 BEAR RIVER DR. LOLETA, CA 95001 707.783.1900, fax 733.1972



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express 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 the 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. Please oppose any amendments that would negatively impact the health of the Cherokee Nation.

It is pertinent that the federal government uphold its trust responsibility to tribes and not threaten their existence with bill and amendments that impact funding. Joe Garcia, President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), wrote in opposition to H.R. 2824: "It is outrageous to propose to terminate the existence of an Indian Nation... This is an uncalled for response to a legal question of 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 destroys the ability of the tribe to take care of its people. The U.S. government's relationship with a federally recognized tribe 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 Nations and Oklahoma citizens. 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 and communities that the Cherokee help sustain. 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 grave precedent for all tribes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria was once terminated by the government under similar pretenses, but, thankfully, the federal court system decided that the termination was illegal. Please do not allow this traumatic experience to happen to the Cherokee Nation.

Sincerely,

Leonard Bowman, Chairman
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria