



"People of the Falling Star"

# Waccamaw Siouan Tribe

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**Chief**  
**Lacy Wayne Freeman**

### **Tribal Council**

**Chairman**  
**Terry Mitchell**

**Vice-Chairman**  
**Elwood Patrick**

**Secretary**  
**LaSandra J. Young**

**Treasurer**  
**Tiffany Graham Locklear**

**Members:**  
**Matthew Blanks**  
**James E Freeman**  
**Millie Freeman**

**Housing Coordinator**  
**Brenda Moore**  
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**Avie J. Patrick**

**Child Care Director**  
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September 16, 2013

The Honorable Kevin Washburn  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Assistant: Secretary Washburn:

I write to express support for the preliminary discussion draft of potential revisions to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 as proposed by the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The thoughtful consideration you and your staff have given to streamlining the process is a bold and welcomed proposal.

Generally, I am in support of all the changes you have proposed in your draft. Specifically, I am in favor of: 1) The elimination of the letter of intent requirement; 2) The elimination of the requirements of §83.7(a); 3) Utilizing 1934 as the date from which petitioning groups must demonstrate community (§83.7(b)) and political influence (§83.7(c)); 4) The inclusion of potential "expedited positive" determinations; 5) Eliminating the appeals process involving the Interior Board Of Indian Appeals; 6) Allowing Indian tribes who have previously been denied to reapply under the new regulations and Indian tribes who are currently under active consideration the option of proceeding under the new regulations; 7) Recognizing that conclusions of historians and anthropologists can be used to support historical descendency under §83.7(e); and 8) Clarifying that "preponderance of the evidence" is the appropriate standard in which to evaluate a petition.

The Indian tribes in North Carolina enjoy a government-to-government relationship with the State of North Carolina, and in many ways, with the United States. Their tribal government, citizens, Cultures and communities remain vibrant and treasured. I commend your administration for taking these steps toward continuing to honor the trust obligation the United States has to all Indian tribes.

Sincerely,

Terry Mitchell,  
Tribal Council Chairman

cc: The Honorable Barak Obama, President of the United States  
The Honorable Kay Hagan, United States Senate  
The Honorable Richard Burr, United States Senate

**"Making Progress for Indian People"**

DBA: **Waccamaw Siouan Development Association, Inc.**