

On motion by Jerry LaFont, seconded by Joe Fertitta, the following resolution was introduced and adopted;

RESOLUTION NO. 14-201

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S PROPOSED RULE TO REFORM THE FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (Department), prior to 1978, addressed requests for Tribal acknowledgement on an individual, case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Department established the Federal Acknowledgement process (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*; and

WHEREAS, Federal Acknowledgement establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Acknowledgement process has been the subject of more than 20 Congressional hearings and several government studies; and

WHEREAS, these Congressional hearings and Government reports found that the process can take decades to complete, cost millions of dollars, is applied inconsistently, and overly burdensome on the petitioners; and

WHEREAS, in June 2013, the Department released a discussion draft of a proposal to reform the Federal Acknowledgement process, and conducted a substantial amount of Tribal consultations and public meetings to receive public comments on the discussion draft; and

WHEREAS, during the three-month comment period the Department received approximately 2,800 comments on the discussion draft and subsequently reviewed and incorporated responses to those comments; and

WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Department published a proposed rule in the Federal Register in which addresses many of the longstanding problems with the Federal Acknowledgement process, while maintaining a rigorous process to establish a Government-to-Government relationship between petitioning tribe and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation needs to submit this Resolution to the Department of Interior by August 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was sponsored for Administration by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, Councilman, District 9; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Administration of the Lafourche Parish Government that the Council approves a Resolution to express support for the Department of the Interior's proposed rule to reform the Federal Acknowledgement process and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute, and administer any and all relevant documents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lafourche Parish Council convened in regular session on July 22, 2014, and does hereby approve a Resolution to express support for the Department of the Interior's proposed rule to reform the Federal Acknowledgement process and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute, and administer any and all relevant documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the: United Houma Nation, Attn: Lora Ann Chaisson, Vice Principal Chief Dist. #2, 2375 Highway 665, Montegut, LA 70377; and the Office of the Parish Administrator.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Jerry Jones
Mr. Michael Delatte
Mr. Aaron Caillouet
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta
Mr. Lindel Toups
Mr. Jerry LaFont
Mr. Daniel Lorraine
Mr. Phillip Gouaux

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. John Arnold

And the resolution was declared adopted this 22nd day of July, 2014.

**DANIEL LORRAINE, CHAIRMAN
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

**CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

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I, CARLEEN B. BABIN, Council Clerk for the Lafourche Parish Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 14-201, adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on July 22, 2014, at which meeting a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2014.

CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL