

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 65, THE LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT**

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**HONORABLE ROBIN HAYES  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*April 18, 2007*

Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Young, I appreciate you taking the time to hold this hearing on the Lumbee Recognition Act, H.R. 65. Since I have been a Member of Congress, I have worked hard to see that the Lumbee Tribe receives full federal recognition. I am very pleased that Lumbee Tribal Chairman Jimmy Goins is able to join us today and testify on this important issue as well.

As you know, I am a proud original cosponsor of the H.R. 65, which was sponsored by my friend and colleague Congressman Mike McIntyre. Mike has been a strong advocator of the Lumbee Tribe for years and it has been an honor to work with him on this important issue as well. I know Senator Dole and Senator Burr are working hard to garner support for the Lumbee Recognition Act in the Senate, and I appreciate their leadership on this issue.

The Lumbee Indian Tribe has an extensive history in North Carolina ranging back to 1724 on Drowning Creek, which is now referred to as the Lumbee River. The Lumbee Tribe has been recognized by the state of North Carolina since 1885. The Lumbee

Tribe has over 40,000 members and is the largest Tribe in the state of North Carolina.

The 8<sup>th</sup> District, which I serve, is home to many of the Lumbees that reside in North Carolina, primarily in Hoke, Scotland and Cumberland counties. These important members of my constituency should be federally recognized so they are able to receive various Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal government services and programs they rightly deserve.

The heritage of the Lumbee Tribe is as strong today as when first recognized by North Carolina and the Tribe should be proud of the rich and valued cultural contribution they have given to our communities. It is my hope that we as a Congress do what the federal government should have done decades ago and give the Lumbee Tribe the distinction of a federally recognized Tribe.

Thank you all again for holding this hearing. I look forward to continuing to work with you all on this important issue.