

Prepared Statement of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Legislative Hearing
On *The Lumbee Acknowledgement Act of 2003*

Good morning and welcome to the Committee's first post-recess hearing.

This morning we will receive testimony on S.420, the *Lumbee Acknowledgement Act of 2003*, introduced by Senator Dole, who is with us today as is Congressman McIntyre, the sponsor of the House version of this bill.

We will hear from Senator Dole and Congressman McIntyre in just a moment as well as from Congressman Eni Faleomaevaga, a good friend of mine.

S.420 will amend the Federal statute relating to the Lumbee Indians of North Carolina enacted in the Termination Period of the 1950's.

If enacted it will provide recognition and the benefits of recognition to the 54,000-member Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

The 1956 Act was both a recognition act and a termination act. Congress recognized the long history of the Lumbee Tribe and individual Lumbees but, instead of welcoming the Tribe

into the family of Federally-recognized Tribes, Congress terminated it.

At the same time it is undisputed that the Lumbee Indians descended from an historic Indian tribe and that their current situation in terms of housing, health care, and education is poor.

I have a number of areas I wish to explore with the witnesses both today and in writing but now let us proceed to our first panel without further delay.

Senator Dole, Congressman McIntyre, welcome to the Committee and please proceed in that order.

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