

# FOIA Marker

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Records Management, White House Office of  
Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	11	5	8	3	9762	22625	10844	10830

Folder Title:

708910

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

## The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Email	Fw: Follow Up - To: Taylor Hughes - From: Karl Rove	2	10/10/2006	P5;
002	Presentation	[Page 11 and 10]	2	N.D.	P5;
003	Email	Two Things - To: Karl Rove - From: Tim Goeglein	1	10/12/2006	P5;
004	Report	Operation Jump Start Status Brief	4	10/10/2006	b7e;
005	Report	Presidential Comebacks	5	10/23/2006	PRM;
006	Briefing	Conference Call with Conservative Leaders [with attachments]	6	10/23/2006	PRM;

**COLLECTION TITLE:**

Records Management, White House Office of

**SERIES:**

Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

**FOLDER TITLE:**

708910

**FRC ID:**

9762

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

**Deed of Gift Restrictions**

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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**Records Not Subject to FOIA**

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
007	Memorandum	Aggregate Revenues & AMT [with attachments] - To: NEC Principals - From: Keith Hennessey	7	10/18/2006	P5;
008	Memorandum	"Extenders" in the Lame Duck Session - To: Al Hubbard - From: Jeff Kupfer	2	10/19/2006	P5;
009	Presentation	Cutting the Deficit in Half	4	N.D.	P5;
010	List	Aggregate Revenues and AMT	1	N.D.	P5;

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**MILLISON\_C**

**708910**

FG006-27

**Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name: **KARL ROVE**

Document Date:

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **NRN'S, COMMENTS, MEMOS, VARIOUS COPIED INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE SCANNED BY ORM FOR FUTURE REFERENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF KARL ROVE ENTERED ON OCT 25 06 OCT 10 06 - TIM GOEGLEIN - TELECONFERENCE WITH FRANK GAFFNEY - EMAIL GOVERNOR BARBOUR'S PROPOSAL - MEMO OCT 08 06 - THE WALL STREET JOURNAL - ...**

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# Reinsurers poised for payoffs

## If weather holds, hedge funds will reap benefits

Originally posted on October 08, 2006

The Wall Street Journal

Coastal homeowners will feel a lot safer if the next few weeks pass without a hurricane. A few bold investors could feel a lot richer.

A handful of reinsurance companies and hedge funds made substantial bets on the weather this year, collecting large premiums in exchange for covering potential disasters along the shore. With each calm day that passes, they are getting closer to securing hundreds of millions of dollars in gains.

Many insurers pared back their exposure after hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma last year, but this group waded into the market for reinsurance — insurance that insurers buy for themselves to help pay large claims, thereby spreading some of the risk of their policies to others.

Among the big potential winners are two divisions of billionaire investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc., which used its deep pockets to sell coverage others couldn't or wouldn't issue because of fears that last summer's monster hurricanes were a taste of things to come.

Another company, Bermuda-based RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd., even expanded in parts of the Gulf Coast that suffered dramatic losses last year. "We often choose to grow in areas that have been hit hardest by recent losses, as that is where the pricing and terms are most attractive," Chief Executive Neill Currie told analysts in August.

Investors, for now, are happy: As of 4 p.m. composite trading Monday on the New York Stock Exchange, that company's stock was at \$55, up 50 percent or so from late October 2005.

In the past year or so, several hedge funds and other investment managers have poured about \$4 billion into a new generation of reinsurance-type vehicles known as sidecars. Among the investors were Highfields Capital Management LP, which oversees \$8 billion, and Farallon Capital Management LLC, one of the nation's biggest hedge-fund firms. Another firm, Third Avenue Management LLC, invested in a sidecar for a \$2.3 billion mutual fund it runs, Third Avenue International Value. Farallon declined to comment; Highfields and Third Avenue each didn't return a call.

There are now at least a dozen of these sidecars. These investment vehicles provide capital to back chunks of risk for a year or two — an array of policies for wind damage in Florida, for instance. Investors typically leave the underwriting — how much to charge, policy details and the like — to reinsurance company partners. The investors and their

reinsurance partners typically share in the premiums and the losses.

Rob Bredahl, New York-based president of reinsurance brokerage firm Benfield Inc., predicts returns of 20 percent to 30 percent or more for some sidecar investors if there are no major catastrophe losses.

That could make bets on a light hurricane season one of the year's best wagers in the financial markets. "If we have a mild (catastrophe) season, they're going to earn well in excess of what they've been able to get in the stock market," says Sarah Hibler, a senior analyst at Moody's Investors Service Inc. By comparison, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up nearly 9 percent this year.

Of course, no one exposed to hurricane risk can be sure of profits just yet. Some of the sidecar deals last for more than a year, so some won't know until late 2007. And there are still two months to go in the current hurricane season. Wilma, one of the insurance industry's three costliest U.S. hurricanes ever, struck late last October.

"We're not counting our chickens," RenaissanceRe President William Riker said in an interview.

But September, historically the most dangerous month, passed without a hurricane striking the U.S. coast. Only 16 hurricanes of Category 3 or above have hit in October since 1851, government data show. Many forecasters had predicted more hurricanes than usual this year. So far, though, the season has been about average, the National Weather Service said. (Some scientists blame global warming for increased storm severity in recent years, a different measure than frequency.)

Barring big disaster losses, returns "for the catastrophe-focused risk takers will be enormous," says Benfield's Mr. Bredahl.

That's largely because catastrophe reinsurance premiums have climbed sharply in the wake of last year's storms, with rates up 76 percent this year in the U.S., says Guy Carpenter & Co., a reinsurance brokerage unit of Marsh & McLennan Cos.

Berkshire Hathaway Reinsurance Group and General Re — two Berkshire divisions that sell reinsurance for potential hurricane damage — booked underwriting losses of \$2.02 billion in last year's third quarter, when Katrina and Rita hit. With no major storm losses this summer, the divisions will report underwriting gains of about \$400 million in the third quarter of this year, predicts Glenn Tongue, partner at hedge-fund T2Partners LLC, which owns Berkshire stock.

"It's just going to be mind-blowing how well they do," Mr. Tongue says. Mr. Buffett declined to comment.

RenaissanceRe took in \$886.5 million for policies covering U.S. hurricane losses last year, or just under half of its total gross premiums, according to its data. For all of 2005, the company had a net loss of \$246.8 million, according to researcher Capital IQ.



This year, it has said it expects catastrophe premiums to grow by over 40 percent. The company's overall risk, meanwhile, is "basically flat" compared with last year, RenaissanceRe's Mr. Riker told analysts earlier this year, calling its return relative to risk "the best that it's ever been."

Alain Karaoglan, an analyst at Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., estimates RenaissanceRe will post after-tax operating income of \$612 million this year. (RenaissanceRe is an investment banking client of Deutsche Bank Securities, and a Deutsche Bank official sits on its board; Mr. Karaoglan doesn't own shares.)

This year's potential profits follow the departure last year of RenaissanceRe's former chief executive, who stepped down amid investigations of its restatement of earnings from 2001 to 2003. RenaissanceRe says that it has proposed a \$15 million settlement to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 10/24/06

To: Barry Jackson

From: Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rose  
Christina

- FYI
- Appropriate Action
- Direct Response
- Prepare Response For My Signature
- Per Our Conversation
- Let's Discuss
- Per Your Request
- Please Return WWIFL
- Deadline
- Other

Comments: Please make a  
recommendation for Karl's  
response.

*Copy given  
to Staff Sec.*



**Orrin G. Hatch**  
**United States Senator**  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Telephone: (202) 224-5251  
Facsimile: (202) 224-6331



**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

TO: The Honorable Karl Rove

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Senator Hatch

DATE: 10/20/06 TIME: 4:30

TELECOPIER NO: 202.456.0191

OFFICE TELEPHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 2  
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

COMMENTS : \_\_\_\_\_

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UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 19, 2006

ORRIN G. HATCH  
UTAH

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you Roger Williams, the distinguished pianist, as a candidate for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Roger has entertained and inspired Americans for decades. He is a good friend and a true patriot.

Throughout his prolific career, Roger has continuously demonstrated how music can enrich lives and unify people. His ability to touch lives crosses racial, economic, and generational gaps. Although he has been hailed as "Pianist to the Presidents," he is equally at home performing to a class grade-school children.

In addition to his virtuosity, Roger Williams is a man of great character and compassion. He regularly donates his time and talents to charitable efforts and has championed the cause of music education in schools. His efforts to improve school music programs has earned him numerous commendations, including being named "Champion for Youth 2004" by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Roger is an extraordinary talent and an impressive human being. He has done so much for our nation and it is my sincere hope that you will honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Thanks for all you and Laura do for this great nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Orrin Hatch", written in a cursive style.

Orrin G. Hatch  
United States Senator

708910

THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

CONFERENCE CALL WITH WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
October 23, 2006

I. BACKGROUND

The conference call participants will consist of key Washington allies and association representatives. The purpose of the call is to review Administration priorities and efforts.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Karl Rove, Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor  
Brian McCormack, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director Public Liaison  
65 Washington Representatives

III. PRESS PLAN

Closed Press

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 1:55 p.m. Participants begin logging in to call.
- 2:00 p.m. Brian McCormack, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director Public Liaison welcomes and begins program
- 2:01 p.m. Brian McCormack introduces Karl Rove.
- 2:02 p.m. Karl Rove, Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor begins overview. There will be a Q & A session upon conclusion of remarks.
- 2:30 p.m. Conference call concludes.

V. ATTACHMENTS

List of Participants

VI. WORKING CONTACT

Jay Zeidman  
Office of Public Liaison, x6-2297



708910

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 10/23/06

To: Dan Bartlett

From: Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove

FYI

Appropriate Action

Direct Response

Prepare Response For My Signature

Per Our Conversation

Let's Discuss

Per Your Request

Please Return

Deadline

Other

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Briefing	Conference Call with Conservative Leaders [with attachments]	6	10/23/2006	PRM;

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Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

### FOLDER TITLE:

708910

### FRC ID:

9762

### OA Num.:

10830

### NARA Num.:

10844

### FOIA ID and Segment:

2015-0037-F

### RESTRICTION CODES

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Aggregate Revenues & AMT [with attachments] - To: NEC Principals - From: Keith Hennessey	7	10/18/2006	P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	"Extenders" in the Lame Duck Session - To: Al Hubbard - From: Jeff Kupfer	2	10/19/2006	P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Presentation	Cutting the Deficit in Half	4	N.D.	P5;

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List	Aggregate Revenues and AMT	1	N.D.	P5;

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705910

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 10/20

To: Ruben Berrub's  
From: Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove

- FYI
  - Appropriate Action
  - Direct Response
  - Prepare Response For My Signature
  - Per Our Conversation
  - Let's Discuss
  - Per Your Request
  - Please Return
  - Deadline
  - Other
- Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Richard Liles & Co., Inc.

INTERIORS

2260 W. HWY. C. N.A.  
BLUE MOUNTAIN PLAZA #1  
SANTA ROSA BEACH, FLORIDA 32459

Tele: 850.267.2600

Fax: 850.267.3399

8-25-06

Dear Karl and Darby,

Enclosed information tells the story of our area's rich history of the Muscogee Nation of Florida who are my friends. They are in "great need" and have been fighting for Federal Recognition since the 1940's. I'm representing our Community as a whole and am asking if there's anything you can possibly do to help. Our local newspaper has been supporting their exposure and we are planning a fund raiser for the Muscogee Nation to help assist them in an Eco Tourism Building Improvement as well as general tribal support fund until they can get the federal recognition we as a community know they deserve. They Need An Act Of Congress.

They are currently within 6 on the active waiting list; Bureau of Indian Affairs, but time is not on their side.

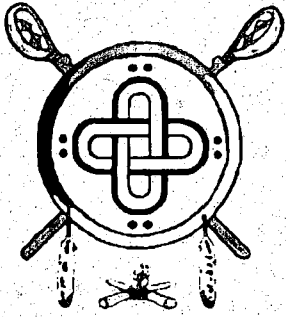
I hope you will read their story, and that you can reach out to them in some way. I would not be writing this letter to you if it were not urgently important.

They are of my people, and they are the people of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Laurie Liles, Native American  
And friend of the Muscogee Nation of Florida

Richard & Laurie Liles



"A People of One Fire"

Chairwoman Ann Denson Tucker

Ph: 850 609 1012

# Muscogee Nation of Florida

278 Church Rd Bruce, Florida 32455

Ph: (850)835-2078

Fax: (850)835-5691

Mr. Karl Rove, Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington D.C.

August 25, 2006

Dear Mr. Rove,

I am the current Chairwoman of the people of the Muscogee Nation of Florida in the Bruce Indian Community of Walton County, Florida. We are 25 miles north of Rosemary Beach where you now have a home. The Tribe has lived here for over 150 years after leaving Alabama during Indian Removal. We followed the Choctawhatchee River south into the area that is now our homeland. We found work with turpentine and shelter along the River. I have served my people for over half of my lifetime, beginning when I was 25 years old. Thirteen years ago, the elders of my Tribal community called me back to Tribal Affairs to complete the federal recognition that they had worked on since the 1940s. I have buried the hopes and dreams of many of the elderly Indian people who raised me, taught me the importance of community and history and government, and asked me to come back to help my people. Months and years that trickle by do not mean much to a government agency inside the beltway of this Nation. But to the members of this Tribe that are the rural poor, living in houses so old that Florida's Insurance Companies will not insure them, watching their way of life slip away into non-existence from the development surrounding and threatening the Tribal community - to the *Indian* people in the Panhandle - time is our worst enemy.

We are not a new Tribe, Mr. Rove. We are Tribal people who proved to the Bureau of Indian Affairs that the U.S. Government had not, in fact, killed or removed all of us in 1957 when we shared in land claims from the Treaty of Ft. Jackson. We have been working with the *current* BIA process since 1974, trying to answer continually changing requirements, with little to no money to help us, and with the sheer strength of our own determination to continue a struggle for what is right and what we know is just. Muscogee Nation has one of the earliest filing numbers in the Office of Federal Acknowledgement of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and sits in a line of "Ready, Waiting for Active Consideration" tribes to be judged by a broken process that the GAO says does not work and cannot be fixed.

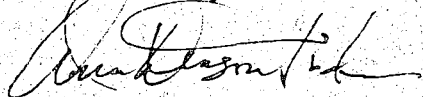
Mrs. Liles was kind enough to visit our Tribal Council House after reading an article in the local Walton Sun and asked if she could be of assistance to us. She offered to send my letter to you. The Washington D.C. co-workers of Pat Oxford, in the Bracewell-Guiliani firm, also know the story of Muscogee Nation of Florida. They believe in who we are, what our reasons are for what we are doing, and work for our legislative recognition on Capital Hill.

I have been given this opportunity to ask for your help. I hear that you are a man that has a kind heart underneath it all. So, I have attached the story of our people for you to read. It is not a pretty story, but it is what we lived and it is who we are as Indian people. I ask that you to take time to understand our plight on behalf of my mother who has devoted 60 years of her life to this Tribal Government, my second and third cousins who cannot read and write, the members of Muscogee Nation who live in substandard housing with no health care, no hope, and no future. I ask on behalf of those who have passed before me and those that children that will follow me, that you enable the recognition of the Muscogee Nation of Florida. The first lesson I was taught when I became an adult was that it takes an Act of Congress to do something for an Indian. We need that Act of Congress, Mr. Rove. It is our only hope.

Senator Bill Nelson and Senator Mel Martinez are not opposed to this Tribe. Congressman Jeff Miller is not opposed to this Tribe. The State Senators and Representatives that serve our tribal area have all filed letters to support the recognition of this Tribe. We maintain a close working relationship with County Government and have lived with mutual cooperation and respect for one another across the years. And even with all of this, we sit and we wait and our old people die and we remain unrecognized. We are offered reasons for delays that have nothing to do with us and change nothing in our everyday lives. I've heard every excuse possible to justify doing nothing for this Indian Tribe during the last 13 years of my life.

I'm one of the lucky ones, Mr. Rove. I managed to get educated but I remembered the debt I owed the Indian Community that raised me and helped me go to school. I came back when the old ones called because that was my obligation and my responsibility. I cannot give my community what it needs the worst which is federal recognition, but I believe that you can. I am honored that I was allowed to write this letter for the people of the Muscogee Nation of Florida. I hope you will read our story and that I will hear from you when you come to Rosemary Beach again.

Mvto' and may Creator walk with you,



Ann Denson Tucker  
Chairwoman



# Muscogee Nation continue their ancestor's struggles

By Gabriel Tynes  
gtynes@link.freedom.com

Years of being stalled, backtracked, denied and rejected, Walton County's Nation of Florida continues to petition the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for recognition. In the meantime, the tribe's progress is measured by simple successes and setbacks. Still, the bureaucratic process has left government commitments and some of what the future may bring.

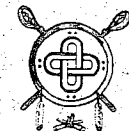
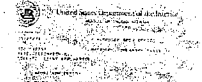
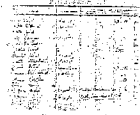
Headquartered in the tiny town of Bruce in central Walton County, the Muscogee Nation has not been an idle tribe. With the help of grants, they've been able to compile an extensive genealogical record of more than 300 years. They've preserved their unique dialect of the Creek language on cassettes and in books. They maintain a gift shop filled with distinctive tribal artwork, clothing and handicrafts and they continue to sponsor annual community events and services. But while the tribe's expenses continue to grow,



Zero Denson, acting treasurer for the Muscogee Nation of Florida and mother of tribal chairwoman Ann Tucker, leads a council meeting at their headquarters in Bruce last year. The tribe is still fighting a 28-year battle for federal recognition. (Submitted by the Muscogee Nation of Florida)

Please see Muscogee Page A18

## A condensed timeline of The Muscogee Nation of Florida "A People of One Fire"



- 1833 - Florida territorial Assembly passes act that bars Native Americans from settling within the territory.
- 1890 - Pine Level School, later renamed Bruce School, opens in Bruce to accommodate children of Indian families.
- 1912 - Bruce Methodist Church is established. The church roll documents the lineage of Muskogee Nation.
- 1947 - Bureau of Indian Affairs announces land claim settlement for Creek Nation.
- 1954 - Bruce School closes due to decreased enrollment.
- 1957 - Southeastern Creek Indians determined eligible to share in land claim settlement.
- 1964 - Indian segregation language is removed from state law after passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act.
- 1971 - Southeastern Creeks receive Docket 21 payment letters from the Department of Interior for 1947 land use settlement. The average check was less than \$90.
- 1974 - State of Florida creates Northwest Florida Creek Indian Council to deal with Creek Indian issues.
- 1978 - Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians becomes Muscogee Nation of Florida. Tribe petitions for federal acknowledgement from the BIA. The petition is returned the same year due to major changes in
- 1995 - Muscogee Nation of Florida submits final petition to BIA after years of changing policies.

## Muscogee

Continue from Page A1

the grants have long since dried up. Ann Denson Tucker, who has acted as the Muscogee Nation's chairwoman for more than a decade, said federal recognition grows more important by the month.

"We have aging tribal members that cannot afford medications," Tucker said, "or younger families living through absolute, third-world squalor. We've had people abandon their heritage because they don't think they can find personal enrichment. Thirty years ago it used to be Indians helping Indians but it seems more and more like the BIA is turning every man for himself."

### MUSCOGEE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN ARDUOUS

The Muscogee Nation first petitioned the BIA for federal recognition in 1978. Major changes in the bureau's policy forced the return of that petition later in the same year. The tribe followed up with two other petitions in the following 17 years, each being retracted due to changing regulations and rulings on other tribal petitions.

Once the Indian Gaming Act was approved in 1988, the landscape for federal recognition was changed

dramatically.

The Muscogee Nation's final petition was finalized and submitted 10 years ago, and the tribe was finally placed on the bureau's consideration list in January 2003. Now, the BIA is asking the tribe to computerize and separate 120,000 pages of documents, a process that is incredibly lengthy and unaffordable.

"This was something completely new and unexpected," Tucker said of the database requirements. "It was like they were levying some kind of tax and we just can't afford to pay it."

The Muscogees were only left with the option to contest the requirement, and forge on with their process. Of more than 500 tribes currently awaiting consideration, the Muscogees are now among the top five. Still, there is no timeline on a possible ruling and no way to predict whether the rules will change again.

"It can take two years or it can 10 years," Tucker said.

She is also grievant of the lack of support at the BIA, where they do not announce or inform of any changes in the regulations, and do not coach tribes through the recognition process.

The benefits of federal recognition were ample even before casino gambling. Recognized tribes

are allowed to tap into almost \$4 billion of low-restrictive funding for health, education, housing, land management and promotion. They are also granted geographic sovereignty and exempted from the majority of state and local laws.

Tucker said for the inevitable question, the Muscogee tribe has not considered any gambling facility. Their priorities remain in the interests of tribal preservation.

"We want to focus on the immediate needs of our members and I don't think a bingo hall falls within our obligations," Tucker said.

Meanwhile, recent approvals have shown that without casino money, there are few scissors sharp enough to cut through the bureaucratic red tape.

The last tribe to gain preliminary approval was the Mashpee Wampanoag in Barnstable County, Mass. They, too, were embroiled in decades of departmental paperwork and processes. That was until Herb Strather, a Michigan real estate and casino tycoon donated \$15 million to the tribe's legal causes in 1999. Suddenly, their case flew through the approval process, and the Wampanoags were finally recognized earlier this year.

"Indian money has changed everything," Tucker said, "whatever legitimacy has ever been [in the process] is gone."

The recognition process has been scarred further by the Jack Abramoff scandal.

"Now everyone on [Capitol Hill] is living in fear," Tucker said. "Few people want to think about Indians. But let me ask this: What does Abramoff have to do with elderly people living in broken down trailers in Bruce, Fla.?"

By bureau standards, around 650 people qualify to gain recognition with Muscogee Nation, but Tucker believes they will be able to extend support to more than 3,000 households.

### BIA SCRUTINIZED BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Shortcomings in the BIA have not gone completely unnoticed. In November 2001, the U.S. General Accounting Office released a 48-page report of problems in the tribal recognition process and recommended several methods for improvement.

Among its findings was there was no clear guidance explaining how to interpret key aspects of the recognition criteria.

Tucker affirmed that the BIA eliminated individual group assistance after scores of lawsuits were filed.

The GAO also found that the BIA is not equipped to respond to applicants in a timely fashion. While petitions for federal recognition have increased in the last two decades, employment at the BIA has dropped, and many positions reviewing the petitions have been eliminated. As a result, the GAO said completed petitions may take up to 15 years to resolve, instead of the two years the process was designed for.

Neal McCaleb, the former assistant secretary for Indian affairs, issued a response simultaneously recognizing and dismissing the criticism.

He argued tribal acknowledgement is a "serious decision" which requires a "thorough and deliberate" evaluation. McCaleb concluded "the existing criteria should not be changed in an attempt to quicken the pace of the process."

In the past five years, none of the GAO recommendations have been implemented.

"In all this time I've realized that [BIA] believes the best way to deal with assimilation is to let time go by," Tucker said. "With enough time, everyone that cares is gone, and so are their problems."

### ANOTHER "TEST OF OUR WILL"

The Muscogee tribe is far past the lowest point of its history. After the Florida General Assembly approved a law in 1853 outlawing all Indian residents, those that remained took drastic measures to hide their ancestry. In their written history, one Muscogee tells of having to bleach her skin to appear more European at a white school. Another recalls how she was beat by her own father to make sure she

emotional when she considers the aging tribal elders. There was a one-year period not too long ago when several elders passed away.

"We suddenly lost a lot of our leadership," Tucker said, "and they had so little to show for all their work and dedication."

With adult children of her own, Tucker wants nothing more than to have some sort of resolution before the entire generation before her is gone. She considers the long recognition process another "test of our will," and tries to remain confident of future success.

She has secured some support in the local and state government but stresses the importance of community involvement and interest. Sen. Bill Nelson called the tribe in June to express his continued commitment to the process, but Tucker knows she needs more than star power.

The tribal council house and grounds are now listed in the Tourist Development Council's new "agri-tourism" brochure. That initiative was launched earlier this year to promote some of Walton County's points of interest north of the bay. There are also highway markers on State Hwy 20 and County Road 3280 that lead drivers to the tribe's door, where a few passersby stop each week. The tribe sponsors a music and cultural festival every April in Fort Walton Beach, along with several events in and around Bruce.

Although they have accumulated a great deal of tribal history, Tucker is most concerned about what may become of it in the future. The Muscogee Nation is losing children to opportunities far brighter than Bruce, and it is unclear how their demographics may change over time. Tucker concedes that younger tribal members should be free to pursue their own interests, but she wishes there was more to

By Senators W.D. Childers and Thomas

A resolution recognizing the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians.

WHEREAS, the states of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama are comprised of lands that once were the original lands of the confederacy of the Creek Indian Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Creek Indians in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama were a great law-abiding nation composed of people of fixed habits and tastes, who loved their homes, and

WHEREAS, the Creeks were known for their civilized society, their hospitality, and their peaceful ways, and

WHEREAS, they were agile hunters, careful preservers of the land, and great craftsmen, and

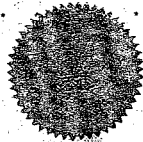
WHEREAS, the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians continues to govern the Creek Indians in Florida, encouraging and serving the people in the promotion of Creek art, Creek history, Creek language, and Creek culture and in the preservation of historic and significant ancient artifacts and sites, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and all of its citizens benefit from the activities of the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

That the State of Florida recognizes and honors the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians and the great history and greatest accomplishment of a proud and wonderful people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and with the Great Seal of the State of Florida affixed, be presented to the representatives of the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians as a lasting symbol of the esteem and respect of the members of the Florida Legislature.



This is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 657, adopted by the Florida Senate on April 22, 1986.

*Bob Johnston II*  
Bobby B. Johnston, II  
President of the Senate

ATTEST:

*Joe Brown*  
Joe Brown  
Secretary of the Senate

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTS

Resolution 1146

By Representatives Tobiasen, Bass, and Robins

A resolution recognizing and honoring Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians.

WHEREAS, the states of Florida, Georgia at which were the original lands of the confederacy of the Creek Indian Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Creek Indians in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama were a great law-abiding nation composed of people of fixed habits and tastes, who loved their homes, and

WHEREAS, the Creeks were known for their civilized society, their hospitality, and their peaceful ways, and

WHEREAS, they were agile hunters, careful preservers of the land, and great craftsmen, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians continues to govern the Creek Indians in Florida, encouraging and serving the people in the promotion of Creek art, Creek history, Creek language, and Creek culture and in the preservation of historic and significant ancient artifacts and sites, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and all of its citizens benefit from the activities of the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of Florida:

That the House of Representatives hereby recognizes and honors the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians and the great history and greatest accomplishment of a proud and wonderful people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and with the Great Seal of the State of Florida affixed, be conveyed to the Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians as a lasting symbol of the esteem and respect of the members of the Florida Legislature.

This is to certify the foregoing was adopted on May 3, 1986.



*James I. Sp*  
James I. Sp

*Alan*  
Alan  
Clerk of the House



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, D.C. 20240

JAN 31 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
Tribal Services - AR  
MS: 4660-MIB

Ms. Ann D. Tucker  
P.O. Box 3028  
Bruce, Florida 32455

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Thank you for transmitting the second portion of the response to the Technical Assistance review letter dated April 11, 1996, from the Muscogee Nation of Florida (formerly Florida Tribe of Eastern Creeks), petitioner #32. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) received this portion of the response on June 5, 2002.

The Branch of Acknowledgment and Research within the BIA has prepared a preliminary inventory of this submission. Please find a preliminary inventory enclosed.

In accordance with the request signed by the governing body and transmitted with your letter of May 11, 2002, the BIA placed, as of January 29, 2003, petition #32 on the "Ready, Waiting for Active Consideration" list. There are eight petitioners ahead of your group on this list. While the group is on the list, the group's governing body may supplement the petition materials. When the BIA is ready to begin active consideration of this petition (the evaluation leading to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs issuing a proposed finding), we will notify you.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS 4660-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

Sincerely,