



The Catawba Nation

Office of Tribal Government

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March 3, 2025

Representative Edward C. Goodwin
North Carolina General Assembly
Legislative Building
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 2760

Subject: Letter of Support for the Recognition of the Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories

Dear Representative Goodwin,

On behalf of the Catawba Nation, I am writing to express our support for the Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories as they pursue formal recognition and the reaffirmation of their rights as a tribal nation within North Carolina. The Tuscarora have deep historical and cultural ties to our shared region, and we stand in solidarity with them in their quest for just acknowledgment.

Historically, the Catawba and Tuscarora people have forged a unique relationship rooted in peace and mutual respect. Our ancestors met near the Cape Fear River, establishing bonds that have endured through generations. We honor this legacy of friendship and reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Tuscarora Nation in safeguarding their identity, sovereignty, and ancestral homelands.

As you prepare to present the Tuscarora recognition bill on March 5th, please know that the Catawba Nation fully endorses this crucial initiative. Recognizing the Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories will not only address historical oversights but will also strengthen the collective sovereignty of Indigenous nations in our state. The Tuscarora Nation has consistently demonstrated its commitment to self-governance and to working collaboratively with our people and other tribal nations to promote unity, cultural preservation, and the advancement of Indigenous rights.

Their longstanding presence in North Carolina is well documented, and their land claims—distinct and specific to eastern North Carolina—respect the historical boundaries of all Indigenous nations. It is imperative that we honor these truths as we move forward.

The Catawba Nation respectfully urges you to champion the recognition of the Tuscarora Indians of Kahtenuaka Territories. Their formal recognition is not only a matter of historical justice but also a vital step toward fostering greater unity and mutual respect among all Indigenous communities in North Carolina.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to continued collaboration in supporting Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Harris", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name "Brian Harris" is printed, followed by "Chief" and "Catawba Nation" on separate lines.

Brian Harris
Chief
Catawba Nation

Cc: Patricia Leach, Roderick Beck, Quinlan Canty, Samuel Beck, Tylee Anderson

Patricia Leach
Assistant Chief

Brian Harris
Chief

Roderick Beck
Secretary/Treasurer