

March 21, 2000

[Address Censored]

Regional Director, Eastern Region  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
3701 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, Virginia - 22203

Re: Appeal of Catawba Executive Committee Decision

We do wish to appeal the decision of the Catawba Executive Committee in rejecting our request to be added to the Final Base Membership Roll of the Catawba Indian Nation.

The rejection letter states that Lillie Susan Harris Ballard was not listed on certain rolls. This reasoning seems to forget that Lillie Susan was born on the Catawba Reservation in 1872 and lived there for the first 20 years of her life, which would indicate that she most definitely should have been on the Catawba rolls. Also, the fact that she was the granddaughter of Chief Allen Harris would seem to indicate that she should have been on the rolls.

She married and bore two children there on the reservation. She and her husband then left the reservation in search of a better way of life. Lillie Susan and her husband settled in the Gainesville, Texas area, where they had six more children. Her husband died in 1907 leaving her with eight children to raise. After her youngest daughter's death in 1936, she also took her daughter's two sons to raise.

I mention the above phase of her life simply to show that she was a strong Catawba woman who was dedicated to her family. Having the initiative to try and make a better life for her family by leaving the reservation should not take away from the fact that; she should have been on the Catawba Rolls, and also, the fact that her lineal descendants should be added to the base roll.

We do petition you to set aside the Executive Council's decision and allow our names to be added to the Final Base Membership Roll of the Catawba Indian Nation.

We do feel this is our blood and heritage right and will certainly appreciate your help in this matter.

Thank you,

Johnny A. Morrow: For Self and on behalf of: Cynthia Morrow, John David Morrow, Anita Morrow Peddycoart, Cody Gee, Lindsey Gee, Ryan Peddycoart, Mary Morrow Hutton, Heather Hutton Johnson, Brandi Hutton and Braden Glenn Johnson