



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Community and Culture

Palmer DePaulis
Executive Director

Ally Inom
Deputy Director

July 26, 2006

Orrana B. Felter
Mixed Blood Uintas of Utah
P.O. Box 465
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Ms. Felter:

I apologize if I failed to convey, in my June 27, 2006 letter, empathy for you and the Mixed Blood Uintas who were victims of Public Law 671. I am certain the Governor also empathizes with you and all mixed blood people who suffered from this ill-advised Act of the U.S. Congress back in 1954. I do agree with you that it did serve to weaken the tribe for many years. And it has continued to contribute to suffering and strife within and without the tribe.

It is important for you to understand that it is simply not advisable for Governor Huntsman Jr. to become embroiled in this controversy. I believe you are aware that an endorsement from him of your group would surely prompt a negative reaction from the Ute Indian Tribe and perhaps other tribes that they may enjoin them. This response would only create more harm than good. I urge you to do what you find you must do but without an endorsement from the Governor.

I wish you luck and success in bringing resolution to this problem that has plagued all Ute Indian people over the years. I certainly regret the suffering that my brother and sister endured as a result of P.L. 671.

Sincerely,

Forrest S. Cuch, Director
Utah Division of Indian Affairs

FSC/amy
pc: Neil Ashdown
Palmer DePaulis
Gayle F. McKeachnie
File



State of Utah

Department of Community & Economic Development
Division of Indian Affairs
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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