

April 3, 2006

President Gordon B. Hinckley
President, Church of Jesus Christ
Of Latter Day Saints
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

Dear President Hinckley,

I am Oranna B. Felter. For all of my life, I have been a proud to be a member of the Terminated Uinta Band of Ute Indians who live in Northeastern Utah.

It is well known that in the Late 1950's that our Uinta People were one of many groups of Native American Indians who fell victim under a "Termination Policy", called the Ute Partition Act, enacted by the U.S. Congress. When Rosa Parks was fighting her own battle in Mississippi at the same time against the racist policy called "Jim Crow", my own Uintas were targeted by our own Country for "termination" that sought to wipe out the whole Ute Indian Tribe as a federally-recognized tribal sovereign.

This racially based Act of Congress, the Ute Partition Act, was based on race, identity and Indian "blood". Congress intended to exterminate the entire Ute Tribe in the beginning. Instead, the federal government only terminated one fourth of the Tribe, by fraudulently branding me and other federally-recognized Uintas as "Mixed Bloods" with fifty percent blood degree or less . The Congressional plan was supposed to also eliminate the so-called "Full Bloods" in a Ten Year Period. The "Full Bloods" were labeled as those members of the Tribe who were one half Ute Indian blood or over. This never happened as intended by Congress since President Richard M. Nixon, in 1968, renounced horror called the "termination policy".

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon called for a "new" concurrent resolution on Indian Policy by Congress that would **Renounce, Repudiate and Repeal the Termination Policy as expressed in House Concurrent Resolution 108. House Concurrent Resolution remains condemned by Tribes in our Country. We remain as victims of this inhuman federal policy that should be condemned by all civilized and democratic Nations that respect the rights of their original inhabitants. When President Nixon ordered this racially-based federal policy to come to a halt, his "New" Indian Policy called for strengthening tribal sovereignty. However me and my Uinta People had already been Terminated under Act of our own U.S. Congress. That shameful Act remains on the books as valid law.**

We remain "Abandoned" between two worlds. We are probably the "only"

Native American Indians in the Civilized World that “half” of the Tribe was terminated.

After we were exterminated from existence as Uintas, human being deserving of all rights like any other Indigenous People in the Civilized World, our story was kept secret and confined only to the State of Utah. Only lately have we began to get the word of our own “holocaust” to other Indigenous People throughout the World, and particularly the Countries of South America and the Islands of the Pacific where the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints seeks to convert others.

When we were terminated there was approximately 260 “minor children” that had no voice, vote or say in our termination. I was one of those 260 minor children, I was eleven years old, my little brother was nine and my little sister was only six. We were defenseless and unable to know what was going on around us that stripped us our identity. Our so-called federal guardian, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, worked with those who stole our identity and land and they continue to do this to this very day.

I have never given up my own personal battle against reversing this “Act of Terrorism” that the continues to victimize the Uintas and justifies the theft of our Land, Water and Minerals, including extremely valuable oil and gas. Though the years I have done a lot of studying and research to try and find out what happened to me and my people. Why did own U.S. Congress force us to live in “two different worlds” without any help from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and others in the State of Utah to make sure we were able to become members of society.

Sadly, many of my Terminated Uinta People could not adjust to the forced “termination” and man of them died broken hearted, wondering why other God-Fearing people in the State of Utah did not bother to help them and come to their aid to fight against this genocidal Act of Congress. A lot of my people have had very hard lives trying to live in these “two different worlds” both rejecting us as “outcast” lower-class citizens and members of American Society. Upon termination, we were no longer eligible for the usual Government services given to other Indians and Tribes and those that were available when we were apart of the Ute Indian Tribe.

The Termination has caused a lot of hardships within the “Mixed blood” Uintas. We never considered ourselves as “Mixed-blood” until a U.S. Senator named Arthur V. Watkins and the U.S. Congress came along in the early 1950’s with devilish plans to take our Land and Uinta Souls. In fact, we were the original inhabitants of the Uinta and Ouray Indian Reservation until other Ute Tribes from Colorado were placed on our Reservation.

I can testify to you and other members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints about the hardship that we have endured for over fifty years. We have been raised “Indian” all our lives. When Congress stole our Uinta identities and said we were going to be “White” much unrest was caused within our terminated Uinta People. No human group could hold themselves together under such an attack and onslaught by the more

powerful bent on stealing and ravaging the poor, uneducated and defenseless. As part of the federal termination plan forced on us by federal policy, our Lands, Gas, Oil and Minerals were turned over to my people so they could become productive members of American Society. U.S. Senator Watkins, full well knew that the "victims" of this "Nazi-type" extermination had no idea or ability on how to take care of themselves After termination. It is very bad that the Civilized Nations were in Horror about the Nazi Death camps during WWII but no one raised a hand or uttered a word of condemnation When my Uinta People were sent on our own "Death March."

History will tell that eventually, many of us lost or sold for pennies that which was given to us and supposedly protected by the United States from theft. The majority of the lands of us "Minors" were sold without holding on to them until we were at least reached the age of twenty one or when we were considered, under law, to be competent to deal with our affairs. Because they were left to the "wolves", many of my people were broke within a matter of a few years. No one stepped in to stop this unprecedented injustice that remains unparalleled in the Western Hemisphere. Our People were very industrious and many of them were Cattle Ranchers and Sheep Ranchers with land capable of producing cattle and sheep. But eventually, termination caused them to sell in order to survive, then gradually they had nothing, going into a state of poverty, while the full-blood members of the Ute Indian Tribe and Senator Watkins watched.

Congress intended that the Gas, Oil and Minerals that were under our Land would be turned over to me and my people so we would be able live productive lives and have some way of surviving. Because of no protection given by the federal government, many had no choice and eventually sold, traded and give away these extremely valuable so they could not survive in State predominately populated by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Non-Indians took from our terminated Uintas when they were forced to get money to pay for Hospital Bills and Doctor Bills, tires for their old trucks, groceries etc.

They took a group of Native American Indians, the Uintas, who were used to going to the Tribal Council and Bureau of Indian Affairs and relying on the federal government to protect them, even when they had to sell a cow. We had absolutely no education or guidance on how to live after Congress stole our identity and we could no longer be who we always "Native American Indians and Uintas."

Our Ancestral Lands were Lost, Our people were Lost and they felt Forgotten. We were put in a situation beyond ourselves where we knew nothing about or how to survive in a world where we were unprotected from those intent on taking from us.

We were once a "Proud People" with our identity, unique indigenous tribal culture and Immense wealth in the form of the Blue Sky, the Earth and all the minerals underneath our Land. Even our water flowing over through and over our beautiful country was taken from us. Then tragedy struck and Congress passed a "racially based" genocidal law that stripped me and My people of our Heritage and identities and handed their

valuable land and minerals over to many non-Indians, including members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints who are paid from our Indigenous Birth Right.

In order to perpetuate the lie that we voluntarily voted to be terminated, I can tell you outright that this is not true. No documents exist that shows the mixed blood Uintas ever voted for Termination. Those who took unconscionable advantage of us perpetuate this falsity to comfort themselves that they are enjoying wealth intended for the terminated Uintas when we live in poverty and wonder why they are rich and we are poor.

Further, I know the Minor children in the 1950's and 1960's couldn't have known they were under their so-called Federal Guardian, the Bureau of Indian Affairs. To my recollections, no one ever gave permission on behalf of the Minors interests to hand away their property. The Minors totaled 260 actually more than half of the 490 Adults.

In 2002 the Terminated Mixed Blood Uinta Band of Ute Indians hired an Attorney as Individual Members, to file a lawsuit in Washington D.C. Federal Court, District Of Columbia on the Termination of our People. Our Attorney, Dennis Chappabitty, who is Chiricahua Apache and Comanche Indian. He like many of our Terminated Uintas is a U.S. Veteran. He and our other U.S. Veterans who are member of the Uinta have seen the injustice and fought for our freedom and the return of what was stolen from us by Act of U.S. Congress and by Sen. Watkins.

On January 28, 2006 three years plus, U.S. District Judge Roberts came down with a ruling dismissing our federal civil action to reverse our termination. He ruled that the Statutes of Limitations had run out, because we didn't protest the termination within the "six" years from after we were terminated. I was only Seventeen years old, six years after termination and knew nothing about what even happened to me let alone even filing a protest on my behalf. The same federal government and U.S. Congress that should have extended its honor to protects its most weak and poor failed to keep us from suffering the looting of our Uinta wealth and the stealing of our identity.

We have just recently filed a Notice of Appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C., District of Columbia, appealing the ruling of Judge Roberts dismissing our case.

We have sent many letters to our Senators and I have met with Congressmen James Hansen from Utah, plus many local Representatives. Mr. Chappabitty has written to Senator Orrin Hatch asking him for his position on why the Ute Partition Act remains as a law. Neither Senator Orrin Hatch or Senator Bennett will answer our letters. We have sent letter to President Bush and he has not shown any compassion from his office.

We were hoping they would support our cause and come forward to help.

We are therefore asking you President Hinckley for your support in this most **Tragic, Inhumane, Devastating and Genocidal treatment of Native American Indians here in the State of Utah and in the United States of American.**

Our People have many faiths and we respect them all, some are Catholic, some Are Baptist and many are Latter Day Saints and some have their Native American Religion, but we all stand together in hopes of overcoming this American Tragedy That has consumed our lives for well over "Fifty Years.," Please take sympathy and support our cause. Justice within the State of Utah can only come if you, as a compassionate President of a Church who proselytizes among our Indigenous People in the Western Hemisphere, take up our cause along with us so we can go forward to the U.S. Congress to eradicate the Ute Partition Act from the laws of this Democratic Nation. We Uintas are "Native American Indians, Uinta Band Members of the Ute Indian Tribe, and we will never give up in our Holy Battle to Reclaim what was stolen from us by Act of U.S. Congress.

I have read a great deal about your Joyful Journeys to foreign lands and the sincere desire that all humans be treated with dignity. I am thankful that you have shown and expressed to other Indigenous People all over the Democratic and Civilized World of Governments that all Humans, no matter what beliefs they maintain, are to be respected. I know that you would want this same respect and dignity to be present right here in the United States and in our Great State of Utah where it serve as an exemplary as the Church's committed to justice for all.

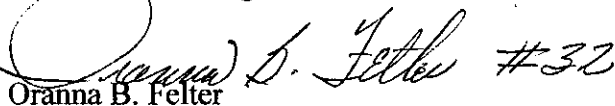
I pray that you, as a Kind and Generous Leader of a very influential Religious Belief, will afford us the same support that you have shown others in their quest to seek justice, both materially and spiritually.

I request that you stand by us in our Journey to Justice. I am making a direct request for your opinion on why the Act of U.S. Congress that I have condemned in this letter continues to remain as a law among the laws of respectful Democratic Nations.

I thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter and I look forward to hearing from you at your very earliest convenience. We are dying as we wait for justice long overdue.

I enclose a few documents for your reading and hope you and your staff will visit our website at: www.undeclaredutes.net I'am also enclosing a copy of two books on the lives of the terminated Uinta Utes of Utah. Parker M. Nielsons, "The Dispossessed" and R. Warren Metcalfs book, "Termination Legacy" The Disgarded Indians of Utah. I hope you will take the time to read both books, they are about Me and my people.

With Warmest Regards,

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April 3, 2006

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Sen. Orrin Hatch, Utah
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Govenor, John Huntsman, Utah
Congressman, James Matheson, Utah
Each member of Congress
Each Embassy, Western Hemisphere
National Congress of American Indians
Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, Att: Sen John McCain
And Others

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