

(1) Letter of Intent

- June 13, 1975



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SMALL TRIBES ORGANIZATION of WESTERN WASHINGTON

P. O. Box 578/Sumner, Washington 98390/(206) 593-2894

June 13, 1975

Honorable Stanley Hathaway
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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Dear Secretary Hathaway:

This legal document is a petition of the Samish Tribe of Indians for federal recognition as a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe is not presently recognized as an Indian tribe. The petition contains legal arguments that the Samish Tribe should be granted federal recognition. It also contains documentation supporting the legal arguments.

The petition argues that the Samish Tribe is a tribal entity and has de factoly been recognized by the federal government as existing. The petition demonstrates that the Samish Tribe has tribal existence and has had and continues to have legal relations with the Federal government.

The Samish Tribe wants to be treated like other recognized Indian tribes. It wants to qualify for federal programs and receive federal services as a recognized Indian tribe. The tribe also needs to be recognized in order to organize under the Indian Reorganization Act, 48 Stat. 984 (1934). That Act has many provisions potentially beneficial to the tribe.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider the Samish Tribe's request for federal recognition. Federal recognition would mean a great deal to them.

Respectfully,

Frank S. La Fontaine

Frank S. La Fontaine
Attorney for the Samish
Tribe of Indians