



# IT'S TIME FOR THE | CHINOOK NATION TO BE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED



## A CRITICAL TURNING POINT, THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

**Congress has the authority to recognize tribes – and can restore the Chinook's rightful recognition that was granted 20 years ago.** This action is long overdue – the time to act is now. We must allow the Chinook Nation to have the opportunity to live their lives, seize their own opportunities, and take ownership of their very own property and their right to determine their own future. Every single day of inaction is another day of denied justice for the Chinook Nation, and we can no longer afford to wait any longer.

*Over the last 20 years,  
the opposition to recognizing  
the Chinook Nation has cost  
\$200 million, educational  
opportunities for Chinook youth,  
and countless lives.*

## **IT'S TIME FOR THE CHINOOK NATION TO BE A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE**

After more than a century of hard work the Chinook Nation obtained federal recognition at the end of the Clinton Administration in 2001. However, celebration turned into heartbreak when, after the intervention of another tribe, the Bush Administration rescinded this recognition eighteen months later. Without federal recognition, the Chinook Nation was essentially declared nonexistent in the eyes of the government. Since 2002, not a single hearing to reinstate recognition has been scheduled, Congress has not granted the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) authority to reverse prior reversals and restore recognition, and **efforts made by the Chinook Nation have been largely ignored.**

Federally recognized tribes are able to access federal benefits like housing, utilities, food, and other basic needs – benefits that are critical to the survival of tribes across the country. Unable to access any of these resources, the Chinook Nation has suffered immensely.

This unfair and unbalanced process has created a humanitarian crisis, not a political one. The deliberate decision to ignore an entire people has validated the ethnic cleansing and the prolonged attempt at the genocide of the Chinook Nation. The United States has benefited immensely from the taking of the Chinook people's lands at the mouth of the Columbia River. Without monetary compensation, the Chinook Nation lacks the resources and infrastructure needed to thrive, and many Chinook families could lose land allotments that were once set aside in their name.



---

### **INJUSTICE BY THE NUMBERS**

- Too many of the Chinook people of Washington and Oregon have died due to **inadequate health care, been denied educational opportunities, and have been unable to benefit from federal and state resources.**
- The government's COVID-19 federal stimulus legislation allocated an unlikely-to-be-repeated \$43 billion to support the vital needs across some of the nation's poorest tribal communities. **Since this infrastructure bill only applies to recognized tribes, the Chinook people have not received any monetary compensation.**

---

**LEARN MORE AT  
CHINOOKJUSTICE.ORG**