

2010 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 150

Extending state recognition to the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 18, 2010

Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 2010

Dear _____,

My wife and I are both lifelong historians in Stafford County and taxpaying citizens of the great Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, we are greatly concerned about the consequences of House Joint Resolution 150 (of February 2010) on both the county's and the state's history. This resolution conveyed recognition by the Commonwealth of Virginia to a group that styles itself the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. We have spent the last 28 months asking for and searching for the specific documentation referenced in this resolution and have yet to obtain it from any source. We would like to see copies of the documentation referenced in House Joint Resolution No.150 substantiating the legitimacy of this group.

Do you know where we might obtain copies of these elusive records used to support House Joint Resolution No. 150 in February of 2010? We have included below the specific sections of the resolution with which we are concerned:

Whereas #8 states that there is "long standing oral history, as well as family, church, land, and other records" which "maintain that several families native to the Patawomeck ancestral area trace their lineage to the tribe."

Whereas #11 states that "Dr. W. L. Deyo" traced "the ancestry of several families in the area back to the original Patawomeck."

Whereas #12 states that "the documentation amassed by Dr. Deyo" and "other scholars is sufficient to establish the claims of the Patawomeck tribal descendants."

We would very much like to obtain copies of the "oral, family, church, land, ancestry, and "other records" submitted by the petitioners to the Virginia General Assembly, such records purportedly substantiating this group's lineage back to the original Patawomeck tribe. All we can find is a 300+ year gaping black hole, conspicuously void of any documentation confirming the lineage between the original Indians and this group. Does ANYONE know where these records are and how we might obtain copies?

Respectfully submitted,
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