



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Office of Principal Chief
Patrick H. Lambert



February 21, 2017

Dennis 'Bill' Taylor
Chairman of Tribal Council
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
88 Council House Loop
Cherokee, NC 28719

Dear Chairman Taylor:

With this letter I am transmitting my veto of Resolution #502. Section 12 of the Charter and Governing Document provides:

"All acts of Council shall be signed by the chairman and the clerks, and countersigned by the Principal Chief or Vice-Chief."

The Vice Chief has signed Resolution # 502. However, section 13 of the Charter provides:

"The Principal Chief shall have the power to veto all acts of Council but his veto shall not prevail against a two-thirds vote of Council."

I have not delegated my right to veto any act of Council pursuant to the Charter, and the Tribal Council may not, by resolution or ordinance contravene the Charter. **I hereby veto Resolution #502.**

While I am fully aware that there are a small committed few who remain steadfast to ensuring that this impeachment process move forward quickly and attempt to remove me from office, regardless of the law, precedent, facts, and against the clear will of the people of this Tribe. However, I have to believe that some on Council still share my vision of looking out for the long term bests interests of this Tribe and that some on Council actually want to hear the truth.

As I have said in open Council for months, I stand ready to discuss any issue. However, I cannot address rumors, speculation and nameless accusers. I can only address specific facts.

As I said in the last Council session, I am disappointed that Council is relying on a report that did not include any of my discussion of these matters and concerns with Internal Audit during their review, and I am disappointed that Council would move ahead on such thin grounds without first having full and open hearings. Disregarding due process and other key tenants of the law is not a sustainable position and causes greater distrust of the government by the people. Impeachment

of any public official cannot be based on speculation; it must be based on facts and wrongdoing that harms the Tribe.

Certain members of Tribal Council who have an agenda other than the best interest of the Tribe are determined to move ahead with adopting Articles of Impeachment before hearing any details from me. This is not only wrong, but it will not stand. In the meantime, you have allowed many serious violations of the Charter and Code by the Tribal Council to take place under your watch. These violations are continuing and compounding.

I have committed no impeachable offenses, and it is my hope that calmer heads will prevail and allow us to come together in a reasonable manner to resolve our differences and move forward in a constructive way instead of a destructive way.

Are you prepared to undertake a position harmful to the Tribe that will have you and other Council members called as witnesses, answering interrogatories, receiving subpoenas, sitting through depositions, and facing recusals and conflicts and the certainty of legal battles in court? This process that you are contemplating will be several months long and will not be the one-sided affair that you have made it to be thus far. I am resolved to present a vigorous defense of myself and to utilize all the legal means within my disposal to defeat this bumbling attempt to unseat me and to attempt to re-instate the failed policies from the past administration.

By moving forward with impeachment and refusing to engage with me in conversation, the more it looks like a witch-hunt. What reasons exist where you wouldn't want an opportunity to speak with me? To refuse me the opportunity for discussion only serves as proof that this is nothing more than retaliation and deflection from the federal criminal investigation that some on Tribal Council may be engaged in. This fact remains, perhaps some of the ones engaged in the violation of actual federal law are attempting to sit as the judges in this action being pushed by those same individuals. For those who haven't committed those violations, you have the opportunity to ensure that this process is fair and balanced. Fairness would require a conversation and to date, no one on Tribal Council has asked for that. The question for the people remains: Will your council member stand for fairness and for doing the right thing?

Over the past month you have called secret closed door meetings to discuss me, behind my back and the backs of the people, all the while you should be utilizing those energies for making positive results happen for our people. Instead you have us all spinning wheels in a losing battle to get me because I have brought a higher level of accountability and honesty to our Tribe.

Might does not make Right and merely because you and your cohorts on Council outnumber me in bodies, you do not outweigh me in votes, support or having the benefit of honesty and truthfulness on my side. I draw my strength from my faith and my resolve from the support of the People and their need and want to see the end of corrupt ways. I will continue to work for our Cherokee Families every day and wish you and Tribal Council would do the same.

I hereby issue this VETO of Resolution #502 (2017) in my official capacity as Principal Chief under the authority granted to me by Section 13 of the Charter and Governing Document of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick H. Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patrick H. Lambert
Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Enclosure (1)

cc: Tribal Council
Attorney General Davis
The People of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians