



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

Route 1, Box 257 Shelton, Washington 98584
Phone 426-9781

Calvin J. Peters — Chairman
Bryan A. Johnson — Vice Chairman
Michael Peters — Secretary

David Lopeman — Treasurer
Michael Krise — Councilman
Florence Sigo — Tribal Historian

Resolution No. 79-64 of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe of Indians by the authority of the Constitution and By-laws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965; and

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council supports attempts by Indian Tribes throughout the United States to preserve and protect their cultural and religious heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have certain areas in their historical lands where Tribal villages once stood, and which are now important historically, archaeologically and culturally; not only to the Indian people but to all citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, such areas also include certain Tribal burial grounds which are of great religious importance to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

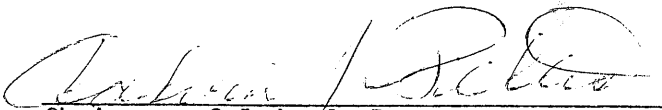
WHEREAS, these areas are threatened by flooding by the Tellico Dam, to be constructed and operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority; and

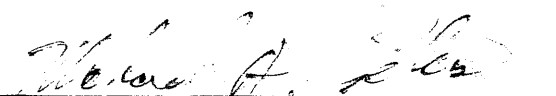
WHEREAS, it now appears that said Tellico Dam is also overly expensive, unnecessary, and in fact, counterproductive to its purpose;

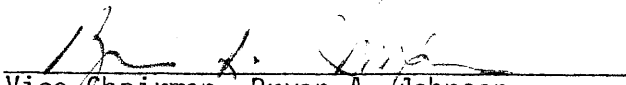
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribal Council hereby expresses its support of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in their attempts to stop completion and use of the Tellico Dam, and calls on all funding agencies to reexamine the value of their contribution to this project.

CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council held on this day of , 1979 at which time a quorum was present and passed by a vote of for, and against.


Chairman, Calvin J. Peters

Attested by: 
Secretary, Michael A. Peters


Vice Chairman, Bryan A. Johnson

Indians to launch dam fight

By Jackson, Wed. Oct. 10, 1979 The News Tribune

CHEROKEE, N.C. (AP)—The beleaguered Tellico Dam, which recently won a battle with a small fish, now may have to fight the Cherokee Indians, who say the dam will flood sacred burial grounds.

The Cherokees voted Tuesday to take the Tennessee Valley Authority to court to block completion of the dam.

Bert Bridger, a lawyer for the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, said the suit will be filed this week in U.S. District Court in Knoxville.

THAT IS THE same court where Judge Robert L. Taylor last week refused efforts by environmentalists to again stop work on the controversial dam because it would destroy the natural home of the snail darter, a finger-length fish protected by the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

The Tribal Council voted unanimously to sue TVA on grounds that the dam violates the Constitution and the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which gives Indians access to sacred grounds.

The council did not file suit earlier because it had hoped the snail darter controversy would kill construction of the dam, Indian officials said.

Work on the \$130 million project 25 miles southwest of Knoxville, Tenn., resumed two weeks ago after President Carter signed a bill ordering the completion of Tellico "notwithstanding any other laws."

Although 95 percent completed, the dam was halt-

ed in January 1977, when a federal court ruled that the 16,000-acre lake it would create would destroy the Little Tennessee River home of the snail darter.

THE LAKE ALSO would flood the land that served as burial grounds and capital of the Cherokees before Andrew Jackson drove them west on the Trail of Tears.

An Interior Department study earlier this year said an investigation revealed the site contains evidence of "human burials among the earliest in North America."

"Congress cannot exempt the Constitution," Bridges said, referring to the bill signed by Carter on Sept. 25. "It cannot eliminate First Amendment rights."

Bridges also said Congress did not specifically exempt Tellico from the 1978 Religious Freedom Act. The land to be flooded includes the former Cherokee villages of Chota, the tribe's capital during the 18th century, and Tensai, from which the state of Tennessee derives its name. Also to be flooded is Icehouse Bottom, an area where archeological digs have uncovered evidence of civilizations existing 8,500 years ago.

"That valley is like the Bible to Indians," planner Bob Blankenship said. "The Commission does not permit the disturbance or flooding them with water."