

# The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Principal Chief Patrick H. Lambert

Vice-Chief Richard G. Sneed



August 9, 2016

**Bill Taylor**  
Chairman  
Wolfstown Township

**T. J. Pulliam, MD, Chair**  
Long Term Care Committee  
c/o Ms. Paige Bennet, Assistant Chief  
Healthcare Planning  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2704

**Brandon Jones**  
Vice-Chairman  
Snowbird &  
Cherokee Co. Township

## Tribal Council Members

**Richard French**  
Big Cove Township

RE: Letter in support of an adjusted need determination to be included in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* for a new dialysis facility in Graham County, North Carolina

**Teresa McCoy**  
Big Cove Township

I am writing this letter to express support for the adjusted need determination proposed to be included in the *2017 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP)* for a new dialysis facility in Graham County.

**Travis Smith**  
Birdtown Township

**Albert Rose**  
Birdtown Township

An End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) dialysis facility in Graham County will greatly improve the quality of life for residents suffering from ESRD. The residents of Graham County, North Carolina, and those on extended visits who need dialysis services to stay alive, must travel substantial times and distances to surrounding facilities in Sylva, Murphy, Cherokee, or Waynesville, North Carolina. For example, a resident of Robbinsville, Graham County must travel 74 miles, roundtrip, to the dialysis facility in Cherokee, North Carolina or 68 miles, roundtrip, to the facility in Murphy, North Carolina. These are the two closest facilities.

**Tommye Saunooke**  
Painttown Township

The long drives are not easy. Distances which appear on maps to be but a few miles involve circuitous routes along roads filled with sharp curves and steep grades. The roads through Graham County run through rugged mountainous country and are extremely dangerous when wet or when snow, ice, and / or foggy conditions are present.

**Marie Junaluska**  
Painttown Township

These types of hardships have material and negative impacts on quality of life for both Graham residents who need dialysis services and those who assist them in traveling to the dialysis facilities. This is an excellent proposal for a much needed service. I urge the Division of Health Service Regulation to approve the adjusted need determination.

**Adam Wachacha**  
Snowbird &  
Cherokee Co. Township

**Bo Crowe**  
Wolfstown Township

**Anita Lossiah**  
Yellowhill Township

**Alan B. Ensley**  
Yellowhill Township

Sincerely,

Brandon Jones, Vice Chairman Tribal Council Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
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