

Dear Mr. Farmer,

On behalf of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments regarding the NCHFA's 2015 Low-Income Qualified Plan (QAP). Based on our rural proximity, mountainous terrain, and unique historical land ownership pattern, the EBCI is significantly disadvantaged in its ability to participate in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program based on the QAP's 1-mile grocery proximity provision. As such, the EBCI respectfully requests that one of the following recommendations be considered in the creation of the 2015 QAP:

Recommendation #1: Remove the 1-mile grocery distance provision as a basis for amenity point determination.

Recommendation #2: Extend the 1-mile grocery distance provision to 3 miles to take into account communities with rural and geographically challenging terrain.

Recommendation #3: Exempt all federally recognized Indian tribes from the 1-mile grocery distance provision when awarding points for project approval.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that I may provide to support the recommendations contained herein. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Housing Finance Agency.

Best regards,

Larry Blythe

Vice Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians