



The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Continued Federal Funding for Haskell Indian Nations University During Sequestration

Resolution No. 13-21



WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and,



WHEREAS, the members of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our effort and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian Nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,



WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is a duly organized Tribal entity, recognized by the Federal Government, with a Constitution and By-Laws approved by the voting membership of the Nation and recognized by the Department of Interior; and,



WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States seeks to balance the budget of the United States and has passed legislation in 2011 that made automatic cuts to the budget across the board beginning in FY 2013 for a ten year period in a process known as "sequestration", and which go into effect if Congress does not otherwise pass a budget; and,

WHEREAS, the sequestration cuts placed in the Budget Control Act in 2011 went into effect on March 1, 2013 because the Congress failed to pass a budget to prevent these cuts, which have devastating impacts throughout Indian Country; and,

WHEREAS, the federal spending in Indian Country is based on treaties our ancestors signed with the U.S. government; in these treaties, the United States agreed to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, and resources including the provision of services known as federal Indian trust responsibility, which includes education services; and,

WHEREAS, Haskell Indian Nations University was established in 1884 to provide education services for enrolled members of federally recognized tribes as authorized by Congress and in partial fulfillment of federal trust and treaty obligations, and is the oldest continuously operating institution of higher education serving members of all federally recognized tribes; and,

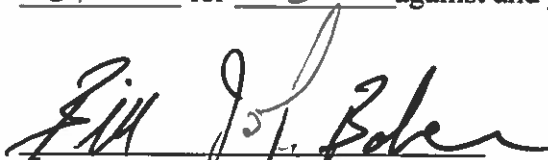
WHEREAS, indiscriminate cuts to the Haskell Indian Nations University budget will have devastating impacts on the quality of higher education services provided to members of federally recognized tribes who have relied on the access to education Haskell has provided for 130 years in Lawrence, KS; and,

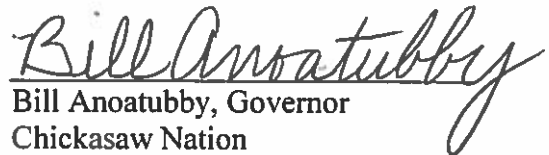
WHEREAS, proposed compounded cuts of 15.4% will produce catastrophic impacts on the ability of Haskell Indian Nations University to expand academic programs, to provide quality food, housing and technology services; to fill key administrative and academic positions, to plan for growth to meet the needs of Indian Country and on the long-standing professional accreditation of Haskell; and,

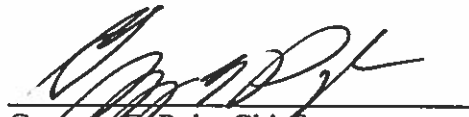
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby urges Congress, the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Education to exempt Haskell Indian Nations University from the impact of automatic budget cuts called for by the sequestration provisions of the Budget Control Act for FY2014 and each year following.


CERTIFICATION

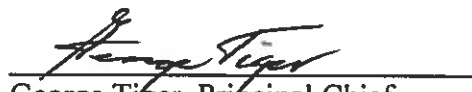
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Sulphur, Oklahoma on this 12th day of July, 2013, by a vote of 21 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation


Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation