

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

Resolution No. 14-12



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, Tribal Law Enforcement agencies are critical protectors of public safety in many communities, and,

WHEREAS, Tribal law Enforcement agencies require appropriate arms and equipment to properly do their jobs, and,

WHEREAS, Many duty weapons relied on by law enforcement agencies are closely regulated by the Gun Control Act (GCA) and National Firearms Act (NFA), and,

WHEREAS, the GCA was passed in 1968, when tribes did not have the sophisticated law enforcement agencies that we have today; and,

WHEREAS, Due to tribes being left out of the GCA due to the 1968 oversight, tribal law enforcement agencies could not obtain the appropriate duty weapons to do their jobs; and,

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) created a temporary stopgap fix that allows tribal law enforcement agencies to use their Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) to qualify for the federal law enforcement exemption; and,

WHEREAS, To obtain the SLEC, officers must attend a Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country (CJIC) training session taught by a US Attorney; and,

WHEREAS, It has been so difficult to attend the CJIC sessions that the BIA recently extended the training requirement from three years to five years, and,

WHEREAS, Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies should not be required to take steps that other law enforcement agencies are not required to take for access to the same duty weapons; and,


WHEREAS, Although we are thankful that the ATF and BIA have created temporary solutions for our problem, we ask for a more permanent fix; and,

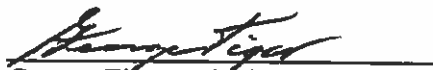
WHEREAS, A permanent fix may come through the regulatory process at ATF or BIA, or from a technical amendment as a legislative fix; and,

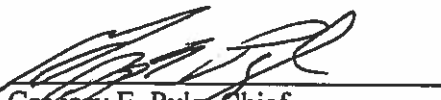
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes strongly urges our Congressional delegation to use their leadership positions to remedy this institutionalized unequal treatment of tribal law enforcement agencies.


CERTIFICATION

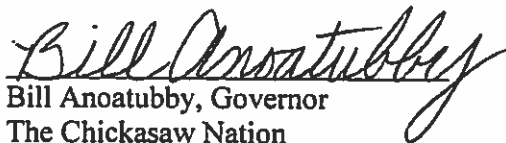
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 11th day of April, 2014, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation