

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting a Joint Venture-Like Program for Bureau of Indian Education Schools

Resolution No. 16-08



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief

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



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the construction and rehabilitation backlog for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools is an estimated \$1.3 billion, which is an estimate that is based 68 schools, not the 78 that applied for school construction and rehabilitation funding; and

WHEREAS, 55 of those 78 schools are deemed to be in "poor" condition, and the other schools were at least 50 years old and are educating the majority of their students in portable buildings; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, the schools that applied for education construction funds last year are in need of immediate repair or total replacement; and

WHEREAS, BIE is still working to repair schools that are on a priority list that was created over a decade ago; and



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, with the limited funding available and the backlog of schools that are in desperate need of repair or replacement, there is a need for an innovative solution; and

WHEREAS, the US House Interior Appropriations Sub-Committee urged the administration to "consider alternative funding mechanisms appropriate for replacing schools and facilities; and



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, some tribes are willing and able to partner with the BIE by incurring some construction costs; and

WHEREAS, a school repair and replacement program through the BIE could be structured similarly to the Joint Venture program offered by the Indian Health Services; and

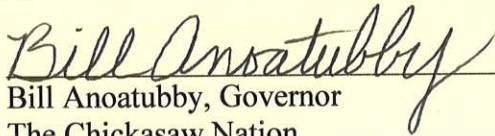
WHEREAS, a BIE Joint Venture-like program would allow tribes to shoulder some of the burden for construction and repairs at BIE schools in exchange for fixed operations and maintenance costs.

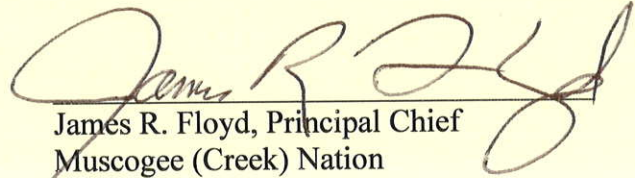
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

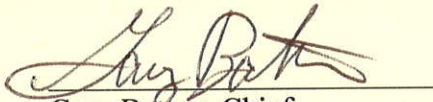
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recognizes that the consequences of waiting for the BIE to address the challenges faced by these schools are too great, and we urge all of Indian Country, and our allies, to rally around innovative solutions for school construction, including a new Joint Venture-like program for BIE.

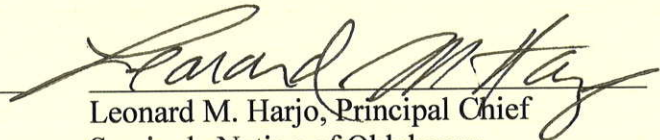
CERTIFICATION

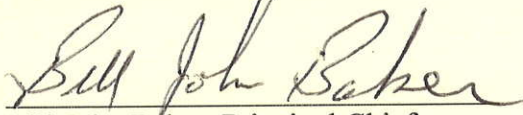
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 8th day of April, 2016, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation