

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in the Opposition to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Proposed Restructuring and Streamlining Plan Where the Existing Oklahoma City BIE Office is not designated as one of the seven proposed Education Resource Center (ERC) Offices for Tribally Controlled Schools

Resolution No. 16-16



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
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 more than 650,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Intertribal Council is the nationally recognized voice of the Five Civilized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) proposed Streamlining Plan does not designate or establish the existing Oklahoma Area Education Office (OAEO) as one of the seven (7) proposed Education Resource Center (ERC) offices under the Associate Deputy Director (ADD) for Tribally Controlled Schools; and

WHEREAS, the BIE's proposed Streamlining Plan eliminates the education services function of the OAEO and regulates the function of the OAEO to a business office status, and creates a proposed new ERC in Flandreau, SD. at the expense of an ERC office in Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, the reduced functions of the Oklahoma City BIE business office under the proposed BIE Streamlining Plan constitutes a significant reduction in the education program services to be provided to the schools and education programs operated by the Five Civilized Tribes and public school Indian Education programs that serve the tribal citizens of thirty-nine sovereign Indian Nations; and

WHEREAS, the BIE's decision to eliminate the education services function of the OAEO and compel the acceptance of a considerably reduced level of services without just reason and formal tribal consultation represents an unacceptable reduction in services and voice for the Indian residents that rely on the services as currently and ably provided by the OAEO; and

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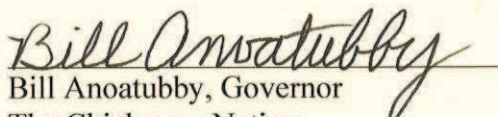
WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes requests the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Education to continue operating the Oklahoma Area Education Office as a resource center for all 39 federally recognized tribal nations in Oklahoma, an office to provide education program services and technical assistance for the BIE schools and dormitories located in Oklahoma and Kansas, and to serve as the National Johnson O'Malley Program Center for the Bureau of Indian Education.


NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is adamantly opposed to the proposed plan that does not establish the OAEO in Oklahoma City, OK as an ERC and considerably reduces the education services currently provided by the OAEO to the Indian students and tribal citizens residing in the Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas in favor of and at the expense of establishing an ERC in the Flandreau, SD.

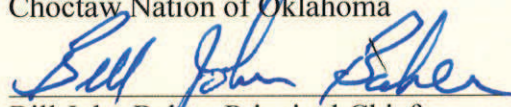
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recommends that as a part of its Streamlining Plan, the proposed business office be established in Flandreau, SD and that the existing Oklahoma City, OK BIE office be designated as the Education Resource Center that is proposed for Flandreau, SD.

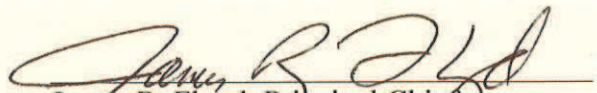
CERTIFICATION

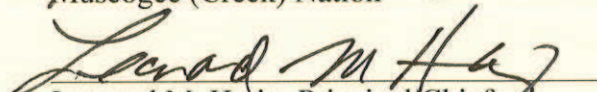
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Norman, Oklahoma on this 8th day of July, 2016, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


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


Leonard M. Hatjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma