

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Balton
Chief



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

A resolution urging the National Congress of American Indians to adopt the following resolution calling for United States policy reaffirming and preserving rights of "removed" Native Nations and Tribes in their original homelands and treaty and ceded territories, including burial grounds and other sacred places, and cultural, fishing, gathering and hunting areas

Resolution No. 16-25

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, ITC-member Nations are committed to protecting places that are sacred to tribal traditional and religious leaders and practitioners, including but not limited to ceremonial grounds and burial grounds of Native Ancestors; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians is a voluntary intertribal association composed of member-Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, Bands, Villages, and other sovereignties and their citizens of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, myriad citizens of Native Nations and Tribes were wrenched from their homelands, some under the color of law, predominately the Indian Removal Act of 1830, others under Treaties and terms of peacemaking and/or warfare, and still others without any legal basis for their removal; and

WHEREAS, there is a popular misconception that "removal" affected only one Native Nation, the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma, or that only the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations were removed from what is now the southeast United States to Indian Territory; although, if it were the case that only five or only one were affected, that would be sufficient reason for concern and to reaffirm and preserve their rights in their original homelands; and

WHEREAS, nearly all Native Nations were removed from important historical and Ceremonial places in their original homelands throughout the 1800s, notably, for two examples, the Potawatomi Nation, which was splintered and moved along the *Trail of Death* from homelands in modern day Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin to Kansas and Oklahoma, and the Ponca Nation, whose lands in Nebraska were dealt away by the United States to the Sioux Nation in the Treaty of 1851, and the US Army forcibly removed the Ponca to Indian Territory.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the National Congress of American Indians to call on the United States Congress and US President to reaffirm and preserve, and to fully consider the interests and rights of "removed" Native Nations and Tribes in their original homelands, including providing hearings and other forums to raise their concerns, together with protective language in any draft legislation, regulation, and reports that might affect their burial grounds and other sacred places, and cultural, fishing, gathering, and hunting areas; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.


CERTIFICATION

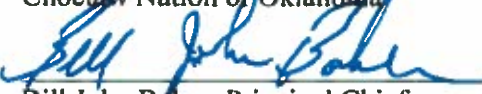
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Norman, Oklahoma on this 8th day of July, 2016, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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