

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting the Protection of Federal Funds Required to Fulfill the United States Trust Responsibility*

### Resolution No. 17-07



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 United States government, through treaty obligations and statutory requirements, has a trust responsibility to Indian tribes, including fiduciary commitments that are critical to the success of tribal governments and the wellbeing of tribal citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** tribal governments efficiently and effectively deploy federal dollars to provide essential social services including health care, education, housing, transportation, public safety, food assistance, natural resources protection, economic development and employment, and

**WHEREAS,** a substantial portion of funding for tribal programs is provided through the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the United States Department of Transportation, the United States Department of the Interior, United States Department of Agriculture, and over 20 other Federal departments and agencies, of which is classified as "discretionary" spending and is often subject to severe and harmful cuts; and

**WHEREAS,** the Budget Control Act of 2011 established automatic budget cuts or "sequestration" that had adverse effects on Indian Country and harmed some of the most vulnerable tribal citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** sequestration resulted in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars for tribal programs leaving thousands of citizens, including children and elders, without assistance for their most basic needs such as healthcare, food and education; and

**WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Service suffered severe funding reductions, consequently leading to the denial of basic health services for thousands of patients, increased wait times at tribal health facilities and drastic reductions in health care staff; and

**WHEREAS,** the impacts of these cuts reverberate far beyond tribal borders as many tribal governments and businesses are key economic generators and job creators inside and outside of their geographic boundaries; and

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**WHEREAS,** the incoming Administration and Congress will be responsible for crafting a budget that balances many competing interests, where it is crucial to the Five Civilized Tribes that the sacred trust responsibility of the federal government to Indian tribes is provided the utmost respect and consideration in the budget process; and

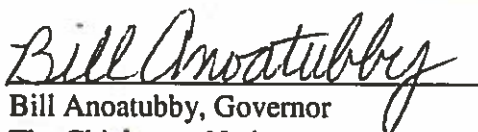
**WHEREAS,** federal programs and contract support costs that support tribal governments and citizens must be shielded from any future deficit reduction measures or sequestration efforts to help protect a tribal government's ability to provide its citizens with life's basic needs and right to pursue self-determination; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the incoming Administration and Congress to protect funding for federal programs that support Indian Country and fully fund all of the United States government's trust responsibilities; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that all funding related to the federal government's trust responsibility not be subject to any deficit reduction measures in order to fully comply with and honor the important and historic relationship between the United States and Indian tribes, and pass a spending bill that contains mandatory appropriations for programs supporting Indian Tribes.


## CERTIFICATION

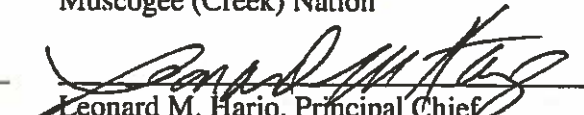
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
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. Harjo, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma