

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution to Request Consultation by Indian Health Service (IHS) with Tribal Health Organizations Regarding Support for Tribal Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Operations*

### Resolution No. 18-05



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 approximately 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** access to health care continues to be an ongoing challenge in Indian Country and delivery of health services is complex and often demanding. Health professionals face high levels of responsibility; high expectations from patients, communities and employers. As part of the overall health system, EMS face the same difficulties as other health services in meeting growing demand for services; and



Gary Batton  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** a basic requirement for EMS to provide timely access and care to the acutely ill and injured is a well maintained and functional ambulance for reaching patients in sometimes remote and austere environments; and



James R. Floyd  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** IHS, as part of its responsibility for supporting tribal health organizations, has for many years provided ambulances to tribal EMS with some subsidy; and

**WHEREAS,** IHS has sent correspondence to tribal health organizations, without consultation or adequate notice, notifying them of the termination of support for ambulance expenses; and

**WHEREAS,** the absence of ground ambulance services will result in increased utilization of helicopter EMS (HEMS) assets and the resulting greater financial burden for patients and tribes; and



Greg P. Chilcoat  
Chief

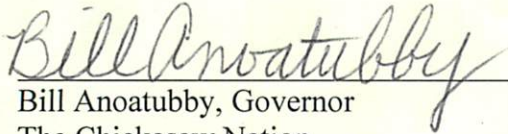
**WHEREAS,** the much needed and sparse support for tribal EMS from IHS in the form of ambulances is required for maintaining minimum operations of EMS in settings already woefully underserved, if served at all.

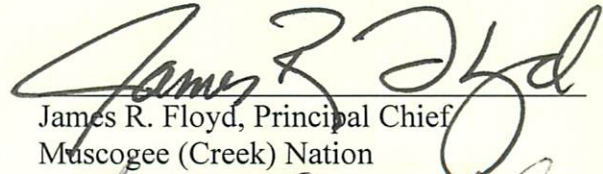
**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby calls upon IHS to reconsider termination of support for tribal EMS and to consult with tribal stakeholders.

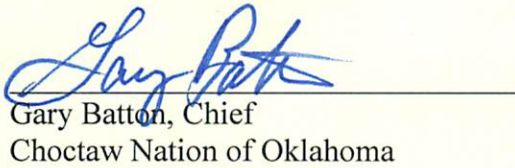
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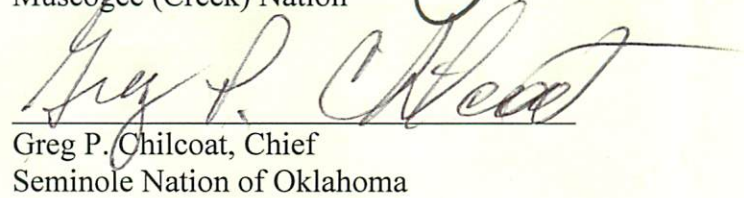
## CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018, by a vote of 5 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

  
Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

*For*   
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation