

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Affirming Support for the 'COVID-19 DISASTER in Indian Country Act'

Resolution No. 20-08



Chuck Hoskin Jr
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 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian tribes whose inherent sovereignty preexists that of the United States and who have held a historic and continual government-to-government relationship with the United States; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, the Five Tribes have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic from day one. They have continued to provide essential services to their citizens including health care, food, housing, public safety, education and other critical services. In many instances, they have even expanded these programs despite the connectivity disparity among our communities; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, many Native American communities are rural and remote, which tends to impact the availability of affordable, reliable broadband and wireless service; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, it has been reported that roughly 35 percent of households on tribal lands do not have quality access to broadband compared to 8 percent on non-tribal lands. This disparity is even more evident as tribes attempt to digitally deliver services to their citizens during this national crisis; and

WHEREAS, one of the unfortunate commonalities among tribal nations is that their citizens are disproportionately impacted by the health conditions that put them at a higher risks of a serious COVID-19 illness, and

WHEREAS, during this pandemic tribal leaders throughout the country have voiced the barriers of quickly getting communities connected. The best way to combat this virus is through social distancing, which is likely to become the new normal; and

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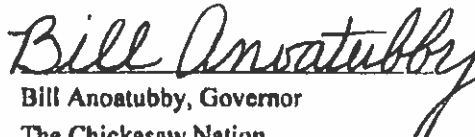
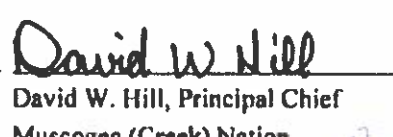


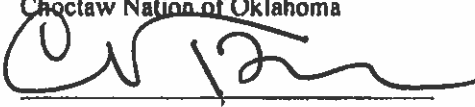
WHEREAS, direct services will always have an aspect of social interaction and equipping tribal nations to do that digitally will continue to minimize risks to the vulnerable population and continue to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the 'COVID-19 Disaster in Indian Country Act', authored by Congressional Native American Caucus Co-Chairs, Congressman Tom Cole and Congresswoman Deb Haaland, provides tribes the funding and access to deploy wireless networks over their tribal lands, and provides through the U.S. Department of Agriculture \$300 million for tribal broadband deployment, repairs, and technical assistance; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby affirms its support of the 'COVID-19 Disaster in Indian Country Act,' and urges the United States Congress and Senate to take swift action on its approval.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 10th day of July, 2020, by a vote of 19 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

 Bill Anoatubby, Governor The Chickasaw Nation	 David W. Hill, Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation
 Gary Patton, Chief Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	 Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
 Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief Cherokee Nation	