

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Full Funding of Indian Country Priorities in President-Elect Biden's Administration

Resolution No. 21-03



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



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, through treaties, statutes, executive orders, and other legal agreements and laws, the United States took on many legal and moral obligations to Indian people in exchange for hundreds of millions of acres of land; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, today and always, tribes have provided for the needs of their citizens, including critical infrastructure, nutrition, health care, employment, housing, and more. Tribes continue to take on even greater levels of responsibility to meet the needs of their citizens, but often, do so with limited resources and funds; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, because of the structure of federal Indian law and policy, tribes frequently have limited or no tax base and must rely on tribal governmental businesses to generate governmental revenue. The federal government continually fails to meet its obligations to Indian Country, with Indian tribes often left out of the federal budget progress and their funding allocations sorely insufficient; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, funds that do go to Indian Country are often discretionary rather than mandatory, causing enormous hardship for Indian tribal governments during government shutdowns; and

WHEREAS, self-governance and self-determination principles have proven highly successful at empowering tribal governments to meet the needs of their own communities. Tribes are good stewards of the federal dollars they receive, and empowering tribes with maximum flexibility to create their own solutions to the unique problems impacting their distinct governments and communities is one of the most effective means of fulfilling the trust and treaty responsibility; and

WHEREAS, an Office of Tribal Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) would ensure better data collection, a clearer picture of the funding needs of tribal governments, and consistent inclusion in budget requests for each department and agency; and

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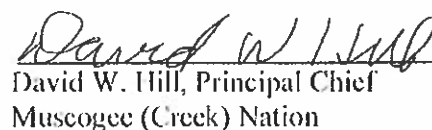
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the President-elect Joe Biden to fully fund Indian Country's needs in his presidential budget request and garner support in Congress for this request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the President-elect Joe Biden to adopt, as the policy of his Administration, key tribal self-governance and self-determination funding principles to ensure maximum flexibility of federal funds and better tribal inclusion in the federal budgeting process.

CERTIFICATION

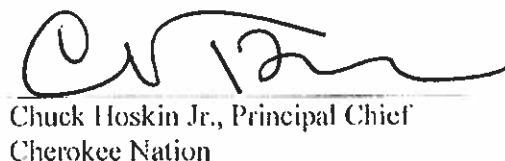
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in virtually on this 8th day of January 2021, by a vote of 17 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Battin, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

ABSENT
Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation