

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Congress to Pass H.R. 1884, the Save Oak Flat Act

Resolution No. 21-23



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, and Muscogee (Creek), representing approximately 780,000 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

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the Indigenous peoples of the North American continent have held strong religious and cultural belief, some of which are centered upon particular places, such as lands and waterways; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, Chi'chil Bıldagoteel, known as Oak Flat, plays a vital role in the religious practices, tradition, and culture of nine Native nations in Arizona and New Mexico, which consider the area a holy place; and

WHEREAS, Section 3003 of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act set a dangerous precedent as the only federal law to authorize the transfer of a Native sacred place to a foreign-owned mining corporation, thereby threatening to destroy a sacred site; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, Resolution Copper project will create a 1.8-mile-wide crater over a thousand feet deep, causing the permanent destruction of Oak Flat, nearby burial sites, numerous sacred springs, and other cultural places vital to the religious practices of the impacted tribes; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1884 will repeal Section 3003 of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, stopping the destruction and providing permanent protections for the area; and

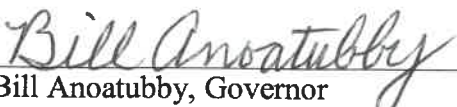
WHEREAS, when a place sacred to any Indian tribe in the United States is desecrated, it is a threat to the unique beliefs and cultures of every Indian tribe in the United States, including the Five Tribes; and

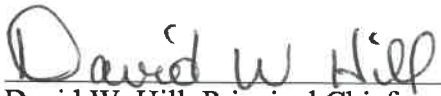
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to support and pass H.R. 1884, the Save Oak Flat Act.

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 9th day of July, 2021, by a vote of 18 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Batten, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation