

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

Resolution No. 2002-8

**A RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED
TRIBES ENDORSING THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION IN
SUPPORT OF CONTINUING THE COMMISSION AS A STAND ALONG
AGENCY WITHIN OKLAHOMA STATE GOVERNMENT AND IN SUPPORT
OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 400,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission was created in May, 1967, during the 31st session of the Oklahoma legislature. The Commission's mission is to serve as liaison between the State of Oklahoma and the Native American peoples of the state, tribal leaders, and various agencies, both federal and state, and the executive and legislative branches of state government; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission is to work toward promoting unity, purpose, and understanding among the Native Peoples of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is home to 38 federally recognized tribes, representing more than 600,000 enrolled members, who have an economic impact of nearly eight million dollars in the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission is unique in state government, serving as the single-point-of-contact between the state and other agencies and Oklahoma's tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission as facilitated cooperation between governments resulting in saving litigation costs for both sides, efficiency in the use of state tribal dollars and facilitated hundreds of agreements between tribes and the state, counties and cities for roads, bridges, law enforcement, rural fire services, rural health services, taxation and gaming; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission helps foster understanding between state and tribal governments and its political subdivisions and its existence and operations help maintain solid relationships and promotes the flow of federal dollars into Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission continually strives for excellence in all activities and products, all of which are designed to promote positive state and tribal relations to provide accurate and factual information to both native and non-native audiences, and to establish a network of relationships based on respect, honesty, and understanding; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes **hereby strongly endorses and supports** the continuation of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission as a stand alone agency and the continued funding of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission **AND are adamantly** opposed to any consideration of reducing, relocating, dissolving or abolishing the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

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CERTIFICATON

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on April 12, 2002 by a vote of 22 FOR, 0 OPPOSED, and ABSTENTIONS.

Chadwick Smith Signed
Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed
Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation

R. Perry Beaver Signed
R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Jerry Haney Signed
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation