

**Resolution 2002-18**

**A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING AND AFFIRMING CERTAIN PORTIONS OF  
THE “OCMULGEE OLD FIELDS” AS A MUSCOGEE TRADITIONAL  
CULTURAL PROPERTY AND OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
EISENHOWER PARKWAY EXTENSION/FALL-LINE FREEWAY  
ALONG CORRIDORS WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT SAID  
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY**

- WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which united the tribal governments of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole and Cherokee Nations, representing over 450,000 tribal members throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of the member tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, and
- WHEREAS,** Muscogee oral tradition identifies the region described historically as the “Ocmulgee Old Fields” as the “Cradle of the Muscogee Confederacy” and,
- WHEREAS,** the Ocmulgee Old Fields encompasses the fall-line region of the Ocmulgee River which was an important Muscogee population center for over 12,000 years; and,
- WHEREAS,** Article I of the first Treaty of Washington, executed in 1805, provided for the exclusion of a fifteen square mile tract of the Ocmulgee Old Fields described therein as the “Reserve Tract” from lands ceded by the Muscogee Nation through said treaty to the United States; and,
- WHEREAS,** Muscogee people maintained an affinity with Muscogee cultural resources located within the “Reserved Tract” as well as within the larger region of the Ocmulgee Old Fields after the Muscogee Government through subsequent treaties, was forced to cede all properties in Georgia; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Ocmulgee Old Fields are rich in both identified and unidentified cultural resources which define and establish a long term continuity of Muscogee history and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** the Muscogee Nation in TR-92-10 opposed construction of the Eisenhower Parkway Extension/Fall-Line Freeway along corridors which endanger “cultural artifacts and information from cultural artifacts associated with

tribal cultural whose people resided in the vicinity of Ocmulgee Mounds National Monument”; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ocmulgee Old Fields contain an extraordinary legacy inter-related and inseparable Muscogee cultural resources within an area which may only properly be regarded as comprising a cultural region or district which is defined as a “Traditional Cultural Property.”

**WHEREAS,** the Muscogee people retain cultural and intellectual property rights associated with the Ocmulgee Old Fields and seek to protect these fundamental rights from further violation, appropriation, and encroachment.

**NOW THERE BE RESOLVED,** that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does fully endorse and support all efforts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in their effort to protect the cultural integrity of the “Ocmulgee Old Fields” and the Ocmulgee National Monument, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes stands in opposition of the construction of the Eisenhower Parkway Extension/Fall-Line Freeway along corridors which would adversely impact said traditional cultural property of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and other culturally affiliated tribes.

### **CERTIFICATION**

ADOPTED by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on October 11, 2002 by a vote \_\_\_\_\_ For, \_\_\_\_\_ Against, and \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Smith, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Pyle, Chief  
Choctaw Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Haney, Chief  
Seminole Nation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
Chickasaw Nation