

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-TRIBAL  
COUNCIL OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

NUMBER 96-23

**Title: SUPPORT FOR THE TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**

**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 300,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Congress of the United States designated the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in 1987 and whereas the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, prepared a Comprehensive Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in 1992; and

**WHEREAS,**

The Plan proposes to help educate the American public about the legacy of the United States government's Indian removal policy as it affected the Five Civilized Tribes and other eastern tribes; and

**WHEREAS,**

The Plan proposes to help Cherokee Tribal museums in developing appropriate interpretive exhibits and programs to convey the full story of the Trail of Tears and American Indian removal policy; and

**WHEREAS,**

The National Park Service Plan proposed a base operating budget of \$250,000 annually to provide for a full-time staff and technical and financial assistance to Trail of Tears cooperators and associations in preservation, resource management, and visitor programs; and

**WHEREAS,**

The annual budget for this national historic trail has been under funded for four years at \$40,000 per year, hindering the hiring of any full-time staff, impeding the implementation of the Plan's important mission of educating the public about a sad chapter in American history, and hampering efforts to support and respond to partnership proposals for accomplishing Plan objectives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urgently request that the Secretary of the Interior take all necessary measures to provide full annual operational funding of \$250,000 for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail by Fiscal Year 1998 so that this shameful story is not neglected or forgotten; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized tribes urgently requests that the Secretary of the Interior take all necessary measures to provide \$1.7 million for appropriate planning and development of proposed Trail of Tears and American Indian removal exhibits and interpretive programs at the two Cherokee museums in North Carolina and Oklahoma.

**CERTIFICATION**

**ADOPTED** by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Fountain Head Resort, Canadian, Oklahoma on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1996, by a vote of 25 for, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Joe Byrd Signed  
Joe Byrd, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

Greg E. Pyle Signed for  
Hollis Roberts, Chief  
Choctaw Nation

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

Jerry Haney Signed  
Jerry Haney, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
Chickasaw Nation