

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

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

NUMBER 96-27

**Senate Investigation into the Management of
Trust Resources by the Federal Government**

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 United States has a trust responsibility to protect the monies, land, water and other natural resources of Indian nations and individual Indian citizens, and

WHEREAS,

The United States Congress has enacted numerous environmental laws for protection of land, water and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS,

The responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of these environmental laws and the lands of Indian people rests in these segregated departments of both federal and state agencies thereby diluting the effectiveness of protecting Indian natural resources; and

WHEREAS,

The United States trust responsibility and these trust resources have been seriously damaged by reduction in federal funding for the enforcement of environmental laws and the protection of Indian natural resources causing untold environmental damage to go undetected and unchecked; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby request that the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the United States House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs investigate the extent of environmental damage to land, water and other natural resources in Indian Country and that said Committee conduct field hearings beginning no later than June 30, 1007 on these paramount issues and initiate this action in the state of Oklahoma and throughout Indian Country nationwide.

CERTIFICATION

ADOPTED by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Sulphur, Oklahoma on this 11th day of October, 1996, by a vote of 25 for, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

J. Garland Eagle Signed for
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