

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

NUMBER 97-02

**Resolution to Establish Sole and Exclusive Rights to all Human Remains, Associated
Funerary Objects and so-called Culturally Unidentifiable Remains and Objects**

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,

Many federal agencies are governed by regulations that adversely impact the sovereign rights of the individual citizens and governmental authorities of the member tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes which provide for those member tribes individually to preserve and protect their ancestral heritage, and

WHEREAS,

Federal regulations mandate consultations with affected individual and federally-recognized tribes and nations, and

WHEREAS,

The member tribes of this council retain right to ancestral lands that are being violated by the lack of proper consultation, especially as it relates to the category of culturally unidentifiable remains and objects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby states that all culturally unidentifiable human remains, associated funerary objects and other archaeological artifacts are the sole and exclusive property of the individual member nation in whose ancestral lands the archaeological work was conducted or, in the instance of multiple culturally affiliated ancestral lands, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act committee of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, will be the authority to determine such affiliation.