

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Extension of the Deadline to Expend Coronavirus Relief Fund Dollars and Additional Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding

Resolution No. 20-10



Chuck Hoskin Jr
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing more than 750,000 Indian people throughout the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian Nations with a moral obligation and inherent sovereign right to protect their most vulnerable from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments have provided the most basic and crucial services to Indian people during the COVID-19 crises, including income support, housing support, and life-saving medical services; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the CARES Act, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 27, 2020. This important piece of legislation provided much needed economic relief to entities across the country, including Indian tribal governments, in the face of the unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic. The \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund included an \$8 billion set aside for tribal governments and tribally-owned entities to alleviate hardship incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the HUD IHBG formula used to determine funding grossly undercounted tribal populations, and member tribes of the Five Tribes Council were among those most undercounted and underserved by this funding; and

WHEREAS, a Harvard University study found that the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations were the most underserved through the CARES Act funding, especially being two of the largest tribal populations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act funding provided stringent timelines and parameters for use of the funds. Tribal nations have unique needs and roles as governments, businesses, healthcare providers, and provider of general services to Indian populations, and flexible uses and timelines of the funds are needed to address the unique needs of tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, additional COVID-19 relief funding needs to provide protections from lawsuit liability our tribal businesses could face as we reopen

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our services and operations because without revenue from our businesses, we cannot sustain the operation of our tribal government services, and

WHEREAS, the need for additional and flexible COVID-19 relief funding legislation with liability protection is clear, especially to serve citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes; and

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to include tribal priorities, allow flexibility in spending down CARES Act funds, and extend the deadline for use of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars beyond December 30, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls for the inclusion of Indian tribal governments and their tribally-owned entities as eligible entities in any future stimulus bills and the inclusion of the Indian Health Service in additional resources allocated to testing and contact tracing in any future COVID-19 relief bills passed by Congress; and

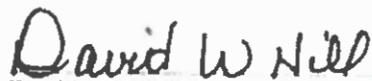
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, any COVID relief legislation must also include liability protection for tribally owned businesses that provide a critical source of revenue for our tribal governments and the services that we provide.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 9th day of October, 2020, by a vote of 21 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



David Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gary Batt, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

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Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation