

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

*A Resolution in Support of the United States federal government making progress on fulfilling its trust responsibility to tribes by avoiding any government shutdown and approving the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the budget reconciliation funding bill*

## Resolution No. 21-31



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Batton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson  
Principal 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 Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** through treaties, statutes, executive orders, and other legal agreements and laws, the United States took on a legal and moral trust responsibility to Indian people in exchange for hundreds of millions of acres of land; and

**WHEREAS,** today and always, tribes have provided for the needs of their citizens, including critical infrastructure, health care, employment, housing, and more. Tribes take on even greater levels of responsibility to meet the needs of their citizens when the federal government is not able to meet funding shortfalls; and

**WHEREAS,** government shutdowns severely disrupt tribal governments and Indian people, as many of the programs and funding streams important to tribes are not subject to advanced appropriations or classified as mandatory funding; and

**WHEREAS,** beyond immediate needs for continuing government operations, tribes have significant and long-lasting needs for investment in both physical and human infrastructure to improve living standards, economic development, and access to the essential resources such as jobs, health care, clean air and water, transportation, child care, and connectivity; and

**WHEREAS,** the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would go a long way toward meeting these needs, as it includes more than \$15 Billion in dedicated funding for tribes in areas such as water infrastructure, roads, bridges, other transportation projects, climate resiliency, and broadband connectivity, so that tribal members in rural communities can stay connected to do their jobs, access health care, and equally participate in school learning; and

**WHEREAS,** the Budget Reconciliation Framework being negotiated by Congress promises to do even more for Indian Country, including allowing advanced appropriations for certain Indian Health Services programs to protect against funding disruptions and investing \$20.5 billion to reverse historic

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underfunding of tribes and unjust treatment of Native American communities; and

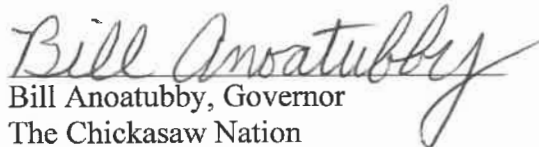
**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls on Congress and the Biden-Harris administration to meet their treaty and trust obligations and avoid funding disruptions that negatively impact Tribal services.

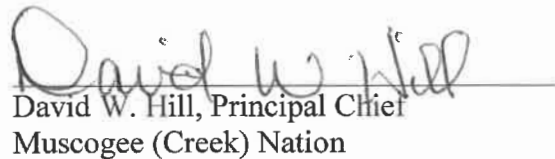
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Inter-Tribal Council calls on Congress to pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and a reconciliation bill with at least \$20.5 billion in funding for Indian Country programs.

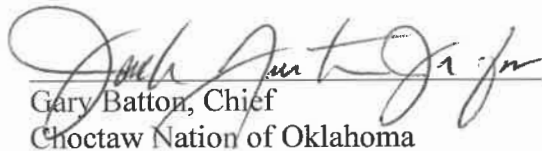
**BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Inter-Tribal Council calls on Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration to pass and implement all funding legislation following these principles: funds are provided directly to tribal recipients and not as pass-through funding to states or another entity; indirect costs are an eligible use of funds and tribal recipients are given the maximum flexibility possible in their use of federal funds; all funds for tribal recipients are available until expended; and funds for tribal recipients are not subject to competitive grants and match requirements.

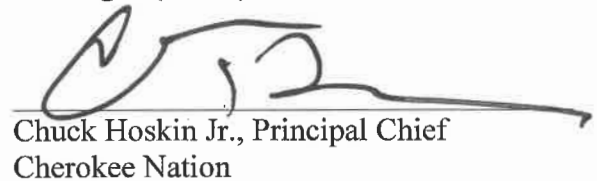
## CERTIFICATION

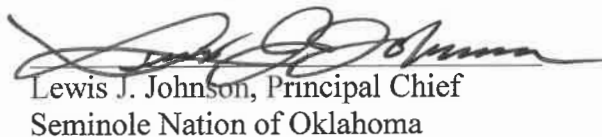
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ against and \_\_\_\_\_ abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

  
David W. Hill, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

  
Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma