

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Congress to Allocate Additional Resources Directly to Tribal Law Enforcement for McGirt-Response

Resolution No. 21-35

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, and Muscogee (Creek), 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 many legal and moral obligations to Indian people in exchange for hundreds of millions of acres of land; and

WHEREAS, the *McGirt* decision, issued on July 9, 2020, affirmed that the reservation established for the Muscogee Nation was never disestablished by Congress. As a result of their shared legal histories, the highest court in the state of Oklahoma has declared that this decision applies to each of the reservations of the Five Tribes; and

WHEREAS, together, the reservations of the Five Tribes form the largest contiguous piece of Indian Country in the United States, spanning 32,000 square miles across 45 percent of the state of Oklahoma and is home to millions of individuals, both citizens of tribal nations and non-Indians alike; and

WHEREAS, the *McGirt* decision was a landmark case resulting in increased caseloads both for tribal and federal courts. The immediate and long-term need for additional resources from the federal government must be met, as it is a legal and moral obligation of the trust and treaty responsibility; and

WHEREAS, In the current U.S. House of Representatives budget reconciliation package, there is an additional \$200 million allocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Public Safety and Justice over the next 10 years for all of Indian Country. This is only \$20 million a year and falls grossly short of the needs of the Five Tribes; and

WHEREAS, A minimum of \$300 million annually is needed to fully address and provide for tribal law enforcement and public safety on the reservations of the Five Tribes, including investigation and justice for murdered and missing indigenous women; and



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Bolton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
Principal Chief

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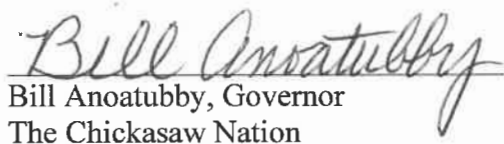
WHEREAS, the governments of the Five Tribes directly impacted by the *McGirt* decision are committed to bolstering their already robust law enforcement departments and providing for the public safety of all persons living on or visiting their reservations; and

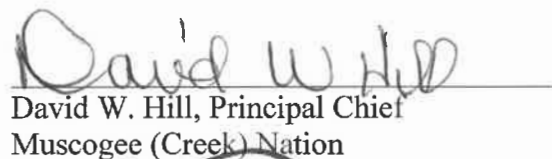
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to equitably fund the tribal law enforcement departments of the Five Tribes by increasing the annual allocation of additional funds to \$300 million; and

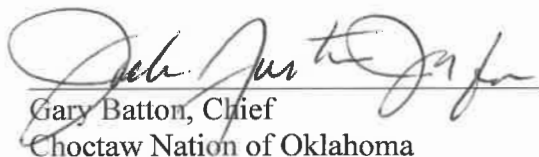
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to ensure that the vast majority of funds allocated for *McGirt* response flow directly to the tribal governments of the Five Tribes who are most acutely experiencing the effects and shouldering the cost burden of *McGirt*.

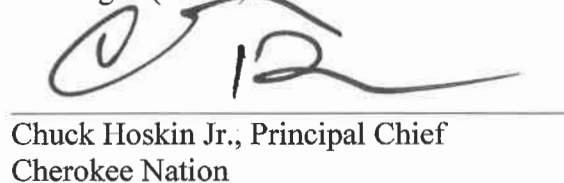
CERTIFICATION

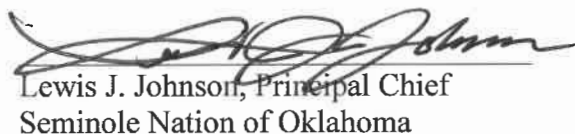
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 8th day of October, 2021, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.


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