

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging the United States Department of Transportation to Release Funds Allocated to Indian Country in the Infrastructure Law

Resolution No. 22-08



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
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



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

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



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, Indian Country has long experienced the negative impacts of inadequate federal funding for infrastructure, with tribal communities disproportionately lacking connectivity, clean water, safe roadways, and sufficient sanitation; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the bipartisan Infrastructure bill, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in November 2021; and



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, the funds allocated to Indian Country in the Infrastructure Bill, in part, help fulfill the federal government's trust and treaty responsibility to Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation provides \$1.2 trillion in funds to address critical infrastructure needs across the country, such as transportation, water, energy, sanitation, environmental needs, and broadband; and

WHEREAS, importantly, the bill includes a historic investment in Indian Country, with \$13 billion allocated to Indian Country, with \$6 billion earmarked for water infrastructure, \$2 billion earmarked for broadband, \$32 million for cybersecurity, \$150 million to address orphaned wells, and \$4 billion for transportation. The Infrastructure Bill includes provisions intended to rebuild Tribal roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water for Native communities, ensure every Native American has access to high-speed internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the bill's \$4 billion investment in transportation for Indian Country includes funds to address underdeveloped, unsafe, and poorly maintained road

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networks, as well as funds to repair hundreds of bridges in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that tribal governments receive the funds guaranteed by the Infrastructure Bill expediently in order to most effectively leverage these dollars and respond to ongoing pressures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated the effects of inadequate infrastructure in Indian Country; and

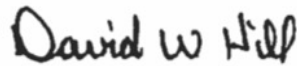
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the United States Department of Transportation to release funds earmarked for Indian Country by the Infrastructure Bill, and allow tribal governments maximum flexibility to use these funds as deemed most appropriate by tribal communities.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 14th day of January, 2022, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 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


Brian T Palmer (Jan 20, 2022 13:24 CST)

Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma






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Final Audit Report

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