

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting change to the National Congress of American Indians Constitution and By-Laws regarding Tribal Membership*

### Resolution No. 23-13



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 Nations, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**WHEREAS,** ITC seeks to safeguard the treaties and laws that benefit Tribal Nations and citizens and help improve government-to-government relations among Tribal Nations in Oklahoma, the United States, and the State of Oklahoma; and



Gary Bolton  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** ITC has adopted ITC Resolution 09-07 which states that the ITC of the Five Civilized Tribes objects to the recognition of Indian heritage groups and cultural clubs by states as "state recognized tribes."

**WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations in Oklahoma have strong concerns about groups claiming to be tribes without federal acknowledgment; and



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS,** some groups claiming to be tribes without federal recognition are recognized by states as tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** some groups that are recognized as tribes by states have gone through the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) process at the Department of the Interior and been found to be primarily comprised of persons with no Native ancestry; and



Lewis Johnson  
Chief

**WHEREAS,** many Tribal Nations in Oklahoma are tribal members of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS,** NCAI permits non-federally recognized groups claiming to be tribes to be tribal members of NCAI; and

**WHEREAS,** Section A of Article II of NCAI's Constitution states the following: "NCAI membership is made up of tribes and individuals who have met the eligibility criteria and the payment of dues as outlined in Article III of the NCAI By-Laws[;]" and

**WHEREAS,** Section B of Article II of NCAI's Constitution states that "Membership shall be of four classes," Tribal Membership, Individual Indian

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Membership, Individual Associate Membership, and Organization Associate Membership; and

**WHEREAS,** ITC supports language amending the NCAI Constitution and By-laws that would define Tribal Membership as “All Tribal Nations with treaty and/or trust relations with the United States as demonstrated by inclusion on the list annually published by the Department of the Interior in compliance with the Federally Recognized Tribes List Act”; and

**WHEREAS,** ITC supports language amending the NCAI Constitution and By-laws that would define Organization Associate Membership as “Organizations and groups recognized by states as tribes may be admitted to non-voting Associate Membership upon the payment of annual dues as fixed by the By-Laws. No individual or organization with known subversive activities or affiliation shall be admitted to membership, nor shall their contributions be accepted”; and

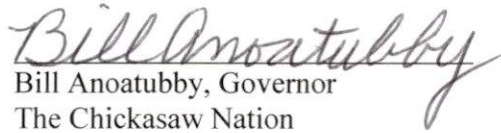
**WHEREAS,** supports removing the entirety of Section B(1)(e) of Article III from the By-Laws, which provides: “Indian tribes relying on state recognition to qualify for membership in NCAI shall provide evidence to the Chief Executive Officer and the Rules and Credentials Committee that the recognition was authorized under state law, and that the state government engaged in verification that the Indian tribe is a continuing community of interrelated descendants of a historic American Indian tribe or tribes. If the state does not have a recognition process or the status of state recognition is unclear, the appropriate NCAI regional caucus may sponsor the membership of a particular tribe after engaging in verification that the Indian tribe is a continuing community of interrelated descendants of a historic American Indian tribe or tribes. This proposed tribal membership will be reviewed by the NCAI Executive Committee and then forwarded to the Rules and Credentials Committee”; and

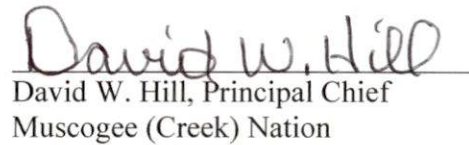
**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recommends NCAI to support and make amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws that would render groups recognized as a tribe only by a State ineligible for Tribal Nation membership to the NCAI.

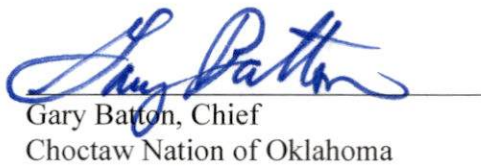
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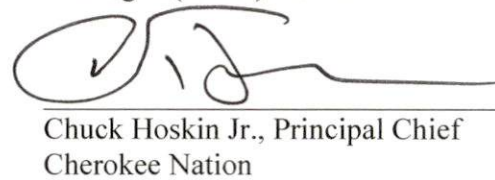
## CERTIFICATION

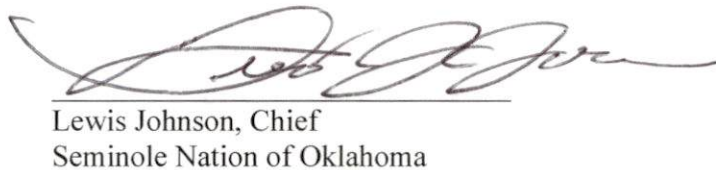
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 14th day of April, 2023, by a vote of All for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

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

  
Gary Patton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
Lewis Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma