

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Urging Congress to pass the 2023 Farm Bill with Tribal Priorities Included*

### Resolution No. 23-14



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Bolton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson  
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,** as the original stewards of the land and water on this continent, Indigenous people have been involved in agriculture and food systems from time immemorial. There are approximately 80,000 American Indian or Alaska Native agricultural producers in the United States. Historically, these producers are underrepresented in the agriculture industry and often lack adequate resources to grow their operations; and

**WHEREAS,** the Farm Bill is the single most significant piece of legislation passed by Congress to support agriculture and food systems in the United States. This massive omnibus legislation, which is set to renew every five years, provides support for the majority of USDA's extensive programs. The most recent Farm Bill, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 ("2018 Farm Bill") was signed into law in December 2018 and represented \$428 billion in farm and food program support; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2018 Farm Bill was truly a watershed moment for Indian Country agriculture. With 63 positive, Tribal-specific provisions included in the final legislation, Indian Country experienced an unprecedented level of success in seeing Tribal priorities realized in federal agricultural policy. The 2023 Farm Bill is an opportunity to build on the 2018 progress; and

**WHEREAS,** many tribes share the same priority goals for the 2023 Farm Bill such as expanding existing tribal self-determination opportunities and establish Tribal Self-Governance Authority under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (638 authority) in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and other Food Assistance Programs at USDA, allow tribes to directly administer their SNAP programs, remove statutory prohibition for individuals that qualify for both FDPIR and SNAP, encourage the USDA to expand and provide more resources to the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program authorized by the American Rescue Plan are just few priorities tribes would like Congress to keep in mind when drafting the 2023 Farm Bill; and

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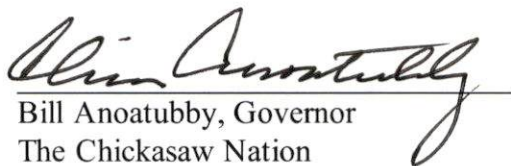
**WHEREAS**, with the 2018 Farm Bill set to expire on September 30, 2023, work on the 2023 Farm Bill has already begun; and

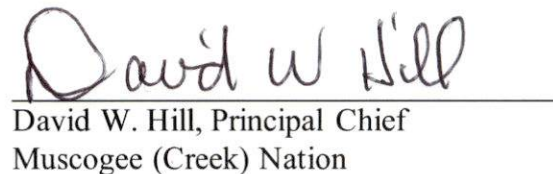
**WHEREAS**, Tribes have laid out a number of important Indian Country priorities in the Farm Bill through the Gaining Ground report; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges Congress to act and pass the 2023 Farm Bill in the 118<sup>th</sup> congressional session with Native priorities included.

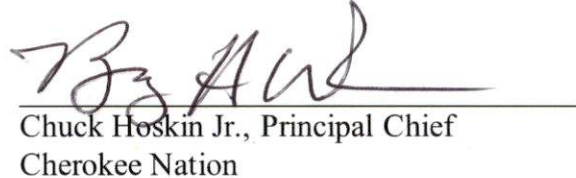
## CERTIFICATION

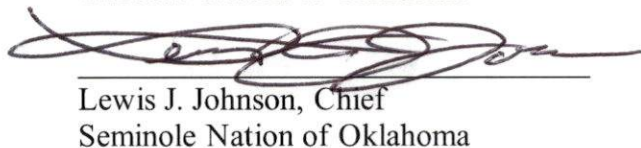
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, by a vote of 26 For 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.

  
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

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma