

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

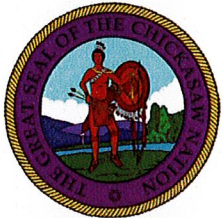
A Resolution Opposing the So-Called Muscogee Nation of Florida's Claim for Federal Acknowledgment Before the Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Resolution No. 24-08



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 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 Batton
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."; and

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

WHEREAS, one such group is a group of people claiming to have Muscogee Creek ancestry, currently petitioning OFA for Federal Acknowledgment by the name of "Muscogee Nation of Florida"; and



Lewis Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, the petitioner's claims to be a legitimate tribal nation are not predicated on any historic existence as a sovereign government, but rather, are predicated entirely on descendance from one individual, Elizabeth (English) Ward; and

WHEREAS, this individual is not of Muscogee or any other Native ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of a single Native person are not the equivalent of a sovereign tribal nation; and

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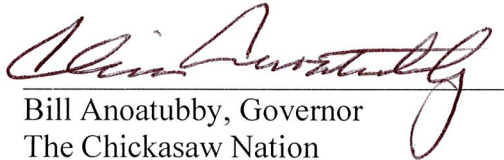
WHEREAS, granting fake groups federal recognition based on descendency from one individual and attendance at a Baptist church, without any evidence of a tribal government that engaged in sovereign-to-sovereign relations with the United States undermines the legitimate sovereignty of all tribal nations; and

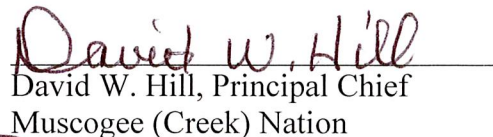
WHEREAS, the petitioner's quest for federal acknowledgment undermines and threatens the legitimate sovereignty of all tribal nations.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the Office of Federal Acknowledgement reject the so-called Muscogee Nation of Florida's petition for Federal Acknowledgment, permanently and with prejudice to prevent repeated petitioning, by concluding that this group cannot satisfy the criteria identified under 25 C.F.R. § 83.11.

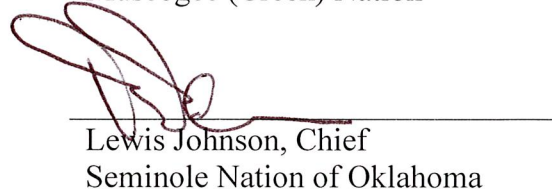
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 12th day of July, 2024, 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


Lewis Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation