

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting Continuation of and Funding for the Fort Smith National Historic Site*

### Resolution No. 25-11



Chuck Heskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Ballton  
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,** the ITC represents descendants of tribal nations and ancestors who survived and rebuilt thriving Nations after years of the Trails of Tears; and

**WHEREAS,** Fort Smith, Arkansas is an entry point and gateway to what became Indian Territory and what is now home to the five tribal nations of Cherokee, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, and Choctaw Nations. It was the entry to what our Nations became and also serves in modern-day as an important economic hub for commerce and health services; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Historic Site in Fort Smith serves as an important location for our Nations and visitors from around the world to tell our shared history in this region. It is an official stop on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. This location is one of the premier cultural and historic attractions in Arkansas and draws thousands of visitors annually to educate on our shared tribal, cultural, and judicial history; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Historic Site in Fort Smith also holds special significance to the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations, as it is the home of the boundary marker delineating our reservation boundaries. This official boundary marker predates statehood for both Arkansas and Oklahoma and reaffirms treaties establishing our reservations; and

**WHEREAS,** appropriations or budget reconciliation measures that reduce funding for the National Park Service threaten to diminish the importance of the site. Reductions in funding would jeopardize the interpretive services that educate the public about this critical history and would weaken the agency's ability to serve as living bridge between past and present.

**WHEREAS,** preserving this site is essential to protect historical accuracy and for the ongoing reconciliation and respect for which tribal nations and the City of Fort Smith strive in tribal partnerships and sharing our collective histories and future.

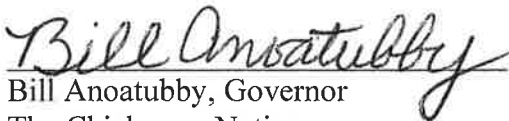
# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES


**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports continuance of the Fort Smith National Historic Site under operation of the National Parks Service as a location of national economic and historical significance to tribal nations, tribal citizens, the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma, and the United States of America; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports continued and increased funding for the National Parks Service, specifically to the Fort Smith National Historic Site for educating and sharing tribal histories in this region.

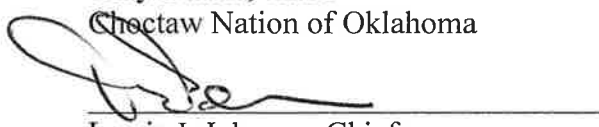
## CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 11 day of July, 2025, by a vote of 5 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

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

  
Gary Batten, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation