

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Opposing Proposed Reductions in Tribal Programs in the FY 2026 President's Budget and Supporting Timely Disbursement of Federal Funds to Tribes

Resolution No. 25-12



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
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 United States has entered into legally binding treaties with each of our Nations and bears a continuing federal trust responsibility to support Tribal health, education, safety, economic opportunity, and self-governance through consistent funding; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026 President's Budget Request includes significant reductions to Indian Affairs funding within the Department of the Interior, including a \$724 million cut to the Operation of Indian Programs, which affects base-funded accounts that directly support Tribal governance and services; this includes a \$617 million reduction to programs such as roads, housing, and social services, and a \$107 million reduction to Tribal law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the proposal also includes a \$187 million (70%) cut to Bureau of Indian Education construction accounts, limiting the ability to address urgent facility needs across Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, additional FY 2026 proposals would eliminate State and Tribal Wildlife Grants and Tribal access to conservation and habitat programs, consolidate Tribal-focused justice offices within the Department of Justice, and reduce support for Tribal higher education institutions such as Haskell Indian Nations University, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and the Institute of American Indian Arts; and

WHEREAS, while the FY 2026 request maintains core funding for the Indian Health Service and includes investments in Tribal behavioral health and lease support, it eliminates advance appropriations for IHS—introducing uncertainty for Tribal health systems that rely on stable, multi-year funding to fulfill treaty and trust obligations; and

WHEREAS, federal funding that has been awarded or obligated to Tribal Nations should be disbursed by federal agencies in a timely manner, avoiding delays that could result in the lapse or rescission of funding and critical

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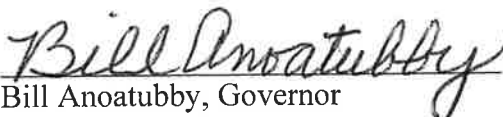
resources needed to carry out essential programs and services in Tribal communities; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the United States Executive Branch and Congress to reconsider and reject proposed reductions and eliminations to Tribal programs, to ensure full and stable funding for federal responsibilities to Tribal Nations in the final FY 2026 appropriations; and to ensure the timely disbursement of all authorized and awarded funds, in order to avoid the lapse or rescission of critical resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council calls on all federal agencies to honor the trust and treaty obligations of the United States, to disburse funds awarded to Tribal Nations without delay, and to engage in early, meaningful consultation with Tribal governments when developing budget proposals affecting Indian Country.


CERTIFICATION

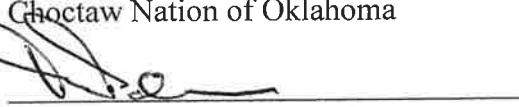
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 11 day of July, 2025, by a vote of 5 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Botton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma