

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Support of the Tribal Emergency Response Resources Act (TERRA Act)

Resolution No. 25-22



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Sena Yesslin
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 877,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the ITC is committed to safeguarding our lands, natural resources, and communities from the increasing threats posed by intensifying natural disasters and related threats; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations across Indian Country, including in Oklahoma, are disproportionately impacted by disaster events such droughts, tornadoes, fires, and flooding, among many others; and

WHEREAS, existing federal programs that are intended to assist Tribal Nations with natural disaster preparation, mitigation, and recovery are often hindered by administrative barriers, siloed agency structures, and complex application processes, which make them difficult to access or fully utilize; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a trust and treaty responsibility to protect and support Tribal Nations, including through the provision of resources necessary to safeguard our lands, people, and cultural lifeways against natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, failure to ensure Tribal Nations have full and timely access to federal resources, technical assistance, and decision-making authority in addressing natural disaster threats constitutes a direct violation of the United States' trust and treaty obligations that are legally binding and morally non-negotiable;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Emergency Response Resources Act (TERRA Act), introduced as H.R.3654 in the 119th Congress, seeks to better honor the United States' obligations by streamlining access to existing federal funding and resources by creating a central coordinating hub within the Department of the Interior, modeled after the successful P.L.102-477 program; and

WHEREAS, the TERRA Act would empower Tribal Nations to design and implement localized, comprehensive disaster preparedness and mitigation plans that combine funding streams across federal agencies, thereby promoting Tribal

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sovereignty and honoring the federal government's treaty obligations to our people; and

WHEREAS, the TERRA Act does not require any new appropriations, but instead focuses on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing federal resources already intended to support Tribal natural disaster resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the ITC supports legislation that strengthens Tribal capacity to respond to the urgent disaster challenges that threaten our people, lands, and cultural lifeways;

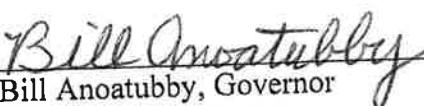
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, that the ITC hereby expresses its strong support for the Tribal Emergency Response Resources Act (TERRA Act); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ITC urges all Members of Congress to honor the federal government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations by supporting policies that build long-term natural disaster resiliency in Indian Country; and

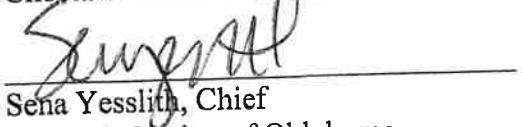
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ITC urges Congress to swiftly pass this bipartisan legislation that promotes Tribal natural disaster resilience and holds the federal government to its trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.

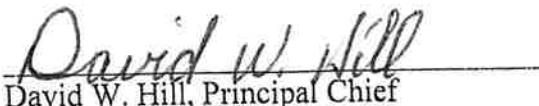
CERTIFICATION

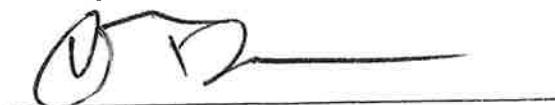
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 10 day of October, 2025, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Sena Yesslin, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


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


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation