

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Calling for Formal Tribal Consultation Regarding the Interagency Agreement between the United States Departments of the Interior and Education Affecting Federal Indian Education Programs

Resolution No. 26-02



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, Executive Order 13175 requires federal departments and agencies to engage in regular, meaningful, robust consultation with Tribes in the development of federal policies that have Tribal implications; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has repeatedly affirmed that Tribal consultation is a cornerstone of federal Indian policy and essential to fulfilling the federal trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2025, the United States Department of Education (ED) and DOI executed an Interagency Agreement (IAA) restructuring the federal administration of Indian and Native education programs; and

WHEREAS, the IAA was executed without prior Tribal consultation, despite its significant implications for Tribal Nations, Tribal education programs, and Native students; and

WHEREAS, neither the IAA nor accompanying public materials describe any Tribal consultation process conducted before execution of the agreement, nor do they outline a formal mechanism for Tribal engagement during its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the absence of consultation deprives Tribal Nations of the opportunity to provide meaningful input on a major federal administrative realignment affecting Indian education and raises concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and implementation readiness;

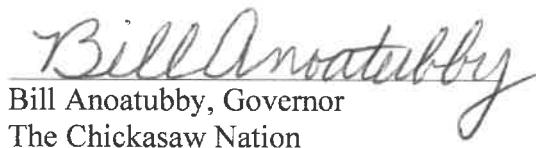
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes formally asserts that the execution of the ED-DOI Interagency Agreement without prior Tribal consultation is inconsistent with Executive Order 13175 and longstanding federal commitments to Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relations.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls upon the United States Department of Education and the Department of the Interior to promptly initiate formal Tribal consultation regarding the Interagency Agreement, including its scope, implementation timeline, administrative impacts, and mechanisms for ongoing Tribal engagement.

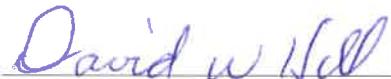
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 9th day of January, 2026, by a vote of 24 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



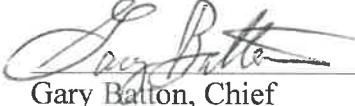
Bill Anoatubby

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



David W. Hill

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



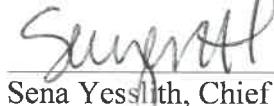
Gary Batton

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



Sena Yesslinth

Sena Yesslinth, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma