The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting Renaming the Washington “Redskins”

Resolution No. 13-27

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 over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, we, the members of the ITC, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our five nations, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

WHEREAS, Senator Maria Cantwell is the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Congressman Tom Cole (Chickasaw) and Congresswoman Betty McCollum are the Co-Chairs of the House of Representatives Native American Caucus; and,

WHEREAS, the ITC supports the Chairwoman and Co-Chairs in their commitment to Indian Country, to improving the lives of tribal people nationwide, and to changing the name of the National Football League’s Washington D.C. franchise; and,

WHEREAS, the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of a franchise is derogatory and racist; and,

WHEREAS, the term perpetuates harmful stereotypes, even if it is not intentional, and continues the damaging practice of relegating Native people to the past and as a caricature; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes does hereby oppose the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of Washington D.C.’s NFL franchise and support Senator Cantwell, Congressman Cole, and Congresswoman McCollum in their commitment to rebrand said franchise.
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Sulphur, Oklahoma on this 22nd day of July, 2013, by a vote of 20 for against and 0 abstentions.

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation

Gregory Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation