THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting United States National Park Services Expansion of Ocmulgee National Monument and Requesting Congressional Enactment of Authorized Legislation

Resolution No. 14-31

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, the ITC strongly supports actions of its member nations to preserve and to protect historic properties and traditional cultural properties within respective ancestral homelands in the American Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the historic Ocmulgee Old Fields, an expansive, culturally defining historic landscape on the Fall-line of the Ocmulgee River at Macon, Georgia is of significant importance to the Muscogee (Creek) people; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, in recognition of the significance of the many historic Muscogean properties existing within the Ocmulgee Old Fields region, in 1934, authorized the United States National Park Service to establish the Ocmulgee National Monument as a means to preserve the historic landscape; and

WHEREAS, in 1966 the Ocmulgee National Monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the National Park Service designated the Ocmulgee National Monument as a Traditional Cultural Property and the first recognized Traditional Cultural Property east of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, was amended in 1992 to ensure that Tribes are provided a meaningful role in federal decisions under Section 106 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has now introduced legislation within both houses of the United States Congress requesting authorization to extend its protective stewardship over a broader area of the historic Ocmulgee Old Fields through its proposed incorporation of 2100 acres of the Ocmulgee Old Fields landscape into the Ocmulgee National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has determined that the proposed National Park Service expansion of the Ocmulgee National
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Monument boundary within the historic Ocmulgee Old Fields region is consistent with and is in accord with preservation interests within the Ocmulgee Old Fields; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has supported the proposed National Park Service expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument and is now engaged in active support for legislation pending in Congress to authorize said action.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the ITC does hereby support the proposed National Park Service expansion of the geographic boundaries of the Ocmulgee National Monument within the historic Ocmulgee Old Fields region and hereby requests of the United States Congress deliberate and quick action toward enacting authorizing legislation.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 10th day of October, 2014, by a vote of 5 for 0 against and 9 abstentions.

Bill Ancatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation