

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



Bill John Baker  
Principal Chief

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING AND STREAMLINING PLAN WHERE THE EXISTING OKLAHOMA CITY BIE OFFICE IS NOT DESIGNATED AS ONE OF THE SEVEN PROPOSED EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER (ERC) OFFICES FOR TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

## Resolution 15-17



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor

**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



Gary Batton  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Tribal Council is the nationally recognized voice of the Five Civilized Tribes; and



George Tiger  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) proposed Streamlining Plan does not designate or establish the existing Oklahoma Area Education Office (OAEO) as one of the seven (7) proposed Education Resource Center (ERC) offices under the Associate Deputy Director (ADD) for Tribally Controlled Schools; and



Leonard M. Harjo  
Principal Chief

**WHEREAS**, the BIE's proposed Streamlining Plan eliminates the education services function of the OAEO office and relegates the function of this office to a business office status, and creates a proposed new ERC in Flandreau, SD. at the expense of an ERC office in Oklahoma City; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduced functions of the Oklahoma City BIE business office under the proposed BIE Streamlining Plan constitutes a significant reduction in the education program services to be provided to the schools and education programs operated by the Five Civilized Tribes and public school Indian Education programs that serve the tribal citizens of thirty-nine sovereign Indian Nations; and

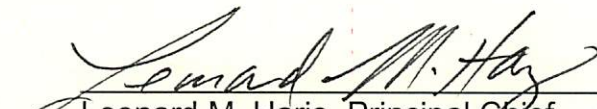
**WHEREAS**, the BIE's decision to eliminate the education services function of the OAEO office and compel the acceptance of a considerably reduced level of services without just reason and formal tribal consultation represents an unacceptable reduction in services and voice for the Indian residents that rely on the services as currently and ably provided by this office.

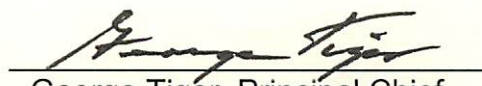
**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is adamantly opposed to the proposed plan that does not establish the OAEO office in Oklahoma City, OK as an ERC office and considerably reduces the education services currently provided by the OAEO office to the Indian students and tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas in favor of and at the expense of establishing an ERC office in Flandreau, SD.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes recommends that as a part of its Streamlining Plan, the proposed business office be established in Flandreau, SD and that the existing Oklahoma City, OK BIE office be designated as the Education Resource Center office that is proposed for Flandreau, SD.

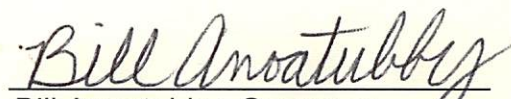
### CERTIFICATION

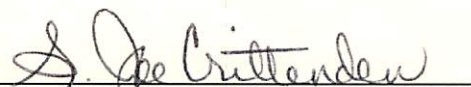
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015, by a vote of all for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

  
Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

  
George Tiger, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

  
Gary Patton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation

*For*   
Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation