A Resolution in Support of Oklahoma House Bill 1334 to Increase Impact Aid for Public Schools

Resolution No. 18-03

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 approximately 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, current Oklahoma state law requires school districts to sell land at a fair market value; and

WHEREAS, many public school districts, particularly those in rural locations, have surplus land that is difficult to sell at a fair market value and remains unutilized for the benefit of the community and school district; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma House Bill 1334 (HB1334), a bill sponsored by Oklahoma House District 6 Representative Chuck Hoskin, who also serves as Cherokee Nation Chief of Staff, seeks to allow school districts to transfer title of unimproved real property to a municipal, tribal or other local housing authority in order to construct single or multifamily dwellings; and

WHEREAS, when these lands are transferred to a tribal housing authority, school districts may be appropriated additional federal impact aid of approximately $2,800 per Native American student living in the resulting Native owned housing units; and

WHEREAS, HB1334 was approved by the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2017 and is currently pending action in the Oklahoma Senate Education Committee before moving on to the full Senate and Governor for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports the swift passage of HB1334, which would give school districts the flexibility to use surplus land to encourage development of affordable housing in their communities while simultaneously harnessing additional federal funding for school operations.
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Thackerville, Oklahoma on this 12th day of January, 2018, by a vote of 5 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma