The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Opposing the Elimination of Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the FY2019 President’s Budget Proposal

Resolution No. 18-12

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 more than 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program that serves low-income households in need of assistance with home energy bills. Priority is given to households with a high energy burden or those with a vulnerable individual in the home, such as a young child under five years old, a person with a disability or an elder over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP assists thousands of households of the Five Civilized Tribes with heating and cooling their homes through a detailed application process; and

WHEREAS, many tribal citizens live in rural areas, making it difficult to access and maintain a dependable job, and furthermore making LIHEAP and similar programs crucial to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is home to the Five Civilized Tribes and suffers from climate extremes, including high heat indexes during summer months and below freezing temperatures during winter months; and

WHEREAS, the President’s FY 2019 budget proposal discontinues funding for LIHEAP thereby eliminating the program, and consequentially depriving tribal citizens of essential resources; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Five Civilized Tribes hereby opposes the elimination of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and urges the United States Congress to protect funding for programs that provide basic needs for tribal children, elders, and individuals with disabilities.
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 1st day of May, 2018, by a vote of 31 for 5 against and 6 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

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

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation