The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution in Support of a Oklahoma State Bill to Change the Date of Native American Day to the Second Monday of October

Resolution No. 19-03

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, Native Americans account for approximately 10 percent of Oklahoma’s population; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Native people have contributed immeasurably to the state of Oklahoma, distinguishing themselves as scholars, artists, entrepreneurs and leaders in all aspects of our society; and

WHEREAS, the lands now known as the United States of America were occupied by millions of Native peoples for thousands of years before the arrival of the first Europeans; and

WHEREAS, the history and culture of Native Americans is inextricably linked to the state of Oklahoma, land of the Red People in the Choctaw language, and previously known as Indian Territory; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments are the economic engines of communities throughout Oklahoma, providing jobs, healthcare, housing and services to thousands of Oklahoma citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Norman, Okmulgee, Anadarko, McAlester, Tahlequah and cities and states throughout the United States have designated the second Monday in October to celebrate and honor Native people, culture and history; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the first session of the 57th Oklahoma State Legislature to change “Oklahoma Native American Day” to the second Monday in October.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes fully supports legislation to change “Oklahoma Native American Day” to the second Monday in October.
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls on all Oklahomans to commemorate this day with appropriate activities to celebrate and honor the culture, contributions, history and traditions of Native Americans.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 11th day of January, 2019, by a vote of □□ for □ against and □ 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, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation