The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Congress to Reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA)

Resolution No. 19-25

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 Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian tribes whose inherent sovereignty preexists that of the United States and who have held a historic and continual government-to-government relationship with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), a bill that allows tribes to provide tribal citizens with critical housing services, was originally passed in 1996 and is up for reauthorization in this session of Congress; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA expired in 2013 and has not been reauthorized; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA has demonstrated that when tribal governments are able to exercise their sovereign self-determination on how to best utilize their federal funding, those dollars are employed more effectively and can be tailored to specific, local needs; and

WHEREAS, allowing this critical program to remain unauthorized creates uncertainty and insecurity that is troublesome for all of Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, in the reauthorization of NAHASDA, no restrictions should be placed on how tribal governments utilize the funds, and any changes to NAHASDA, including changes to the funding formula, should only be changed through government-to-government negotiations with the tribes; and

WHEREAS, in the reauthorization of NAHASDA, no federally recognized tribe should be explicitly mentioned or subject to additional restrictions for funding eligibility.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby urges Congress to reauthorize NAHASDA and uphold its commitment to government-to-government negotiations as changes to NAHASDA are considered.
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CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 11th day of October, 2019, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

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

Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma