A Resolution Supporting Restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit

Resolution No. 20-01

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 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax credit that most benefits the working poor and those with low-wage jobs and has a clear history of encouraging work and reducing poverty; and

WHEREAS, the EITC was enacted in Oklahoma in 2000 and had strong bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Oklahoma lawmakers eliminated EITC refundability and in doing so reduced an essential tax benefit for more than 200,000 Oklahoma working families; and

WHEREAS, by ending EITC refundability, Oklahoma has raised taxes, as much as $279, on those who can least afford it; and

WHEREAS, in the forty (40) counties in Oklahoma with tribal jurisdiction, approximately 115,000 families lost all or some of their benefits for EITC in 2016, representing a loss of $124 per household; and

WHEREAS, working families already contribute their fair share of state taxes through the sales and excise taxes that they pay, with the average family earning under $20,000 a year paying twice as much of their income in state and local taxes as the wealthiest Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, refundability is critical to the success of the EITC because it allows the credit to still reward work and support families even if they pay little income tax.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby supports the restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes calls upon the Oklahoma legislature to pass legislation during the 57th legislative session to restore the Earned Income Tax Credit.
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Catoosa, Oklahoma on this 10th day of January, 2020, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma