

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging the United States Department of Agriculture to immediately implement Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act and forgive qualifying USDA loans to American Indian producers

Resolution No. 22-07



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

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 Nation, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, through treaties, statutes, executive orders, and other legal agreements and laws, the United States took on many legal and moral obligations to Indian people in exchange for hundreds of millions of acres of land; and



Gary Balton
Chief

WHEREAS, known as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Loan Forgiveness Plan for Minority Borrowers, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Section 1005 includes provisions for USDA to pay up to 120% of loan balances, as of January 1, 2021, for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans and Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) to any Socially Disadvantaged producer who has a qualifying loan with FSA. This includes producers who are one or more of the following: Black/African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, or Pacific Islander; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the 120% payment represents the full cost of the loan to include 100% toward loan balances as of January 1, 2021, and the 20% portion is available for tax liabilities and other fees associated with payment of the debt. Any payments by borrowers made since January 1 will be reimbursed in full; and



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, there are approximately 80,000 American Indian or Alaska Native agricultural producers in the United States. Historically, these producers are underrepresented in the agriculture industry and often lack adequate resources to grow their operations; and

WHEREAS, American Indian producers have disproportionately experienced the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including rising input costs, difficulty exporting goods, and few resources to mitigate these effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Loan Forgiveness Plan for Minority Borrowers is critical not only for its mitigating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the

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agriculture industry, but because it, in part, helps fulfill the trust and treaty responsibility of the United States to Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, delays in payments to producers have caused undue hardship and continual negative impacts on these Indian-owned businesses, which are entitled to these funds through the congressional legislation, the American Rescue Plan Act; and

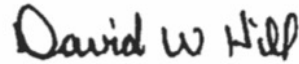
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urges the USDA to immediately implement Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act and forgive qualifying USDA loans to American Indian producers.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 14th day of January, 2022 , by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



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



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Brian T Palmer (Jan 20, 2022 13:50 CST)

Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma






ITC Resolution_USDA Loan Program_01.20.22

Final Audit Report

2022-01-20

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