The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-TRIBAL
COUNCIL OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

NUMBER 96-23

Title: SUPPORT FOR THE TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

WHEREAS,
the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which
unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee
(Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 300,000 Indian people
throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS,
The Congress of the United States designated the Trail of Tears National Historic
Trail in 1987 and whereas the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park
Service, prepared a Comprehensive Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic
Trail in 1992; and

WHEREAS,
The Plan proposes to help educate the American public about the legacy of the
United States government’s Indian removal policy as it affected the Five Civilized
Tribes and other eastern tribes; and

WHEREAS,
The Plan proposes to help Cherokee Tribal museums in developing appropriate
interpretive exhibits and programs to convey the full story of the Trail of Tears
and American Indian removal policy; and

WHEREAS,
The National Park Service Plan proposed a base operating budget of $250,000
annually to provide for a full-time staff and technical and financial assistance to
Trail of Tears cooperators and associations in preservation, resource management,
and visitor programs; and

WHEREAS,
The annual budget for this national historic trail has been under funded for four
years at $40,000 per year, hindering the hiring of any full-time staff, impeding the
implementation of the Plan’s important mission of educating the public about a
sad chapter in American history, and hampering efforts to support and respond to
partnership proposals for accomplishing Plan objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes urgently request that the
Secretary of the Interior take all necessary measures to provide full annual
operational funding of $250,000 for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail by
Fiscal Year 1998 so that this shameful story is not neglected or forgotten; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,
That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized tribes urgently requests that the Secretary of the Interior take all necessary measures to provide $1.7 million for appropriate planning and development of proposed Trail of Tears and American Indian removal exhibits and interpretive programs at the two Cherokee museums in North Carolina and Oklahoma.

CERTIFICATION

ADOPTED by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting held at Fountain Head Resort, Canadian, Oklahoma on this 12th day of July, 1996, by a vote of 25 for, 0 Against, and 0 Abstentions.

Joe Byrd Signed Greg E. Pyle Signed for
Joe Byrd, Principal Chief Hollis Roberts, Chief
Cherokee Nation Choctaw Nation

Perry Beaver Signed Jerry Haney Signed
Perry Beaver, Principal Chief Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Seminole Nation

Bill Anoatubby Signed
Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation