

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Celebrating Five Years Since the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma and Recognizing the Continued Need for Tribes to Defend Sovereignty*

### Resolution No. 25-13



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Batton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson  
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

**WHEREAS,** on July 9, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which alongside subsequent Oklahoma court rulings affirmed that the respective reservations of the ITC member tribes had never been disestablished; and

**WHEREAS,** the McGirt decision affirmed that for over a century the state of Oklahoma had unlawfully prosecuted tribal citizens in cases over which it did not have jurisdiction, and that the justice systems of tribal nations had been wrongfully suppressed; and

**WHEREAS,** ITC tribal governments have worked for five years since the McGirt decision to expand and invest in judicial capacity in order to protect the public safety of the communities and residents of their reservations; and

**WHEREAS,** tribal governments have continued to pursue economic development in order to meet these restored public safety responsibilities while providing for their people; and

**WHEREAS,** by collaborating with tribes, federal, state and local agencies continue to establish successful processes for prosecuting crimes and supporting law enforcement without infringing on jurisdictional limits; and

**WHEREAS,** tribes continue to face attacks from officials who oppose the McGirt decision and seek to diminish tribal sovereignty through legal and political maneuvers or continued violations of jurisdictional limits; and

**WHEREAS,** tribes will stand together in the face of further cases in federal and state courts that seek to undermine federal Indian Law and diminish tribal sovereignty over tribal reservations; and

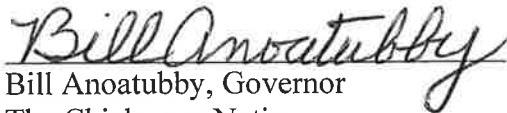
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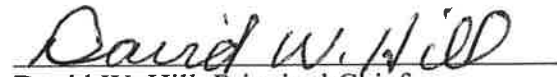
**WHEREAS**, citizens of both ITC member tribes and Indian Country at large celebrate McGirt as a landmark decision affirming tribal rights before the highest federal court in the United States; and


**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes celebrates the five-year anniversary of the McGirt decision as a tremendous victory for tribal sovereignty, commits itself to the continued protection of tribal rights on tribal land, and urges federal, state and local officials to seek collaboration with tribes on public safety rather than continued legal disputes.


## CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 11 day of July, 2025, by a vote of 5 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

  
Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

  
Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation