



**THE
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION**

Historic and Cultural Preservation Department
PO Box 580 | Okmulgee, OK 74447
T 918.732-7733 | F 918.758-0649

JAMES R. FLOYD
PRINCIPAL CHIEF
LOUIS A. HICKS
SECOND CHIEF

RECEIVED

March 16, 2016

MAR 21 2016

Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Office of Federal Acknowledgment
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

DOI/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

RE: Opposing petitioner #32: Muscogee Nation of Florida's petition for federal acknowledgment

Dear Office of Federal Acknowledgment,

Please accept the attached Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Resolution as our official comment opposing the federal acknowledgment of the Muscogee Nation of Florida. We respectfully submit this tribal resolution which was passed by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on February 27th, 2016 and was signed by the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on March 4th, 2016.

Sincerely,

RaeLynn Butler 3/16/16

RaeLynn A. Butler
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Email: raebutler@MCN-nsn.gov

Attachment:

“A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE ENTITY KNOWN AS THE MUSCOGEE NATION OF FLORIDA PURSUANT TO APPLICATION BEFORE THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RESEARCH”

#03-44



TR 16-019

CLASSIFICATION: #25. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-TRIBAL RELATIONS

A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF THE ENTITY KNOWN AS THE MUSCOGEE NATION OF FLORIDA PURSUANT TO APPLICATION BEFORE THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RESEARCH

Be it resolved by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-determination on behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) people; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government-to-government relationship with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation represents over 80,000 Muscogee citizens throughout the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, which is the former Creek Confederacy from the Southeastern part of the United States, is composed of forty-four smaller tribal towns; and

WHEREAS, between 1827 and 1838, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all of its members were voluntarily or forcibly removed from the Southeast to Indian Territory along with other Southeast tribes on what historians refer to as the infamous Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has maintained their true cultural identity in Oklahoma with 16 distinct ceremonial grounds where they hold traditional sacred ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the sovereignty and reputation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation continues to be in jeopardy due to the acts of individuals, organized groups, and cultural clubs claiming Muscogee heritage who don't have lineage verification or meet criteria for Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship; and

WHEREAS, these heritage groups and cultural clubs have sought both state and federal recognition; and

WHEREAS, the heritage group known as the Muscogee Nation of Florida has sought federal recognition in the past and has not met qualifications for federal acknowledgement for the existence as an Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has determined that the proposed heritage group entitled Muscogee Nation of Florida is not of any relation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or the tribal towns it encompasses; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation people have had our own distinct language, ceremony, and spiritual beliefs that have been preserved throughout hundreds of years; and


WHEREAS, the Government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has determined that the heritage group entitled Muscogee Nation of Florida has not provided acceptable documented proof that they are tied traditionally, historically, culturally, or politically to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or Creek Confederacy, and the use of our tribal namesake is an attempt to make this heritage group associated to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council hereby supports the federal recognition process of the Department of the Interior as administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation objects to the federal recognition of the Indian heritage group known as the Muscogee Nation of Florida and urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research to reject the Muscogee Nation of Florida's request for acknowledgment.

ENACTED by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this 27th day of February, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.



Lucian Tiger III, Speaker
National Council
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

CERTIFICATION

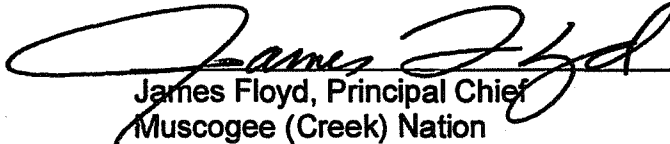
I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with Sixteen members attending this meeting on the 27th day of February, 2016 and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of 15 in favor, 0 against, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.



Kristie A. Sewell, Recording Secretary
Muscogee (Creek) National Council

APPROVAL

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature this 4th day of March, 2016 to the above Resolution, TR 16-019 authorizing it to become a Resolution under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



James Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

