



RESOLUTION R-11-01-2021-H

RESOLUTION OPPOSING GROUPS CLAIMING TO BE "TRIBES" AND INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE "INDIAN" WITHOUT SOVEREIGN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe of Indians pursuant to an Act of Congress known as Public Law 106-568, also known as the Shawnee Tribe Status Act of 2000 and Title VII of the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act [114 Stat. 2913, 25 U.S.C. §§1041 *et seq.*, December 27, 2000]; and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Tribe is imbued with all inherent attributes of sovereignty, having exclusive civil and governmental jurisdiction over its lands, and is organized and governed pursuant to a Constitution duly ratified by the members of the Shawnee Tribe on September 15, 2001, as amended on September 16, 2006; as amended on September 17, 2011; and as amended on March 17, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Shawnee Tribe vests all governmental powers in the Shawnee Tribe Business Council, which is empowered to prescribe rules and regulations, to enact laws, and to transact all business on behalf of the Tribe, in accordance with Articles IV, VI, and VII of said Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Shawnee Tribe is to exercise its unrestricted right to self-government and promote the well-being of Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Tribe Business Council represents approximately 3,600 enrolled Shawnee citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Tribe Business Council have been aware of a growing number of non-Shawnee individuals and groups claiming to be Shawnee and that these groups and individuals have been organizing to form non-profit organizations and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Acknowledgement implements Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), Procedures for Federal Acknowledgment of Indian Tribes. The acknowledgment process is the Department's administrative process by which petitioning

groups that meet the criteria are given Federal "acknowledgment" as Indian tribes and by which they become eligible to receive services provided to members of Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, the federal acknowledgment process at the Department of the Interior protects existing tribal nations and the public from false claims to tribal and native identity; and

WHEREAS, the exclusive right of government-to-government engagement is reserved for recognized sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS, there are only three Federally Acknowledged Shawnee Tribes, the Shawnee Tribe headquartered in Miami, Oklahoma, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe headquartered in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma headquartered in Wyandotte, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the history and movement of the Shawnee People is well documented and includes periods of genocide through warfare and disease at the hands of French, Spanish, British and American citizens along with scalp bounties and complete forced removals from traditional homelands; and

WHEREAS, Shawnee People have had to depend upon each other and our long-established political structure to ensure the survival of our Sovereignty, Culture, Language and Tribal Citizens. This history, shared experience, and political structure has dictated and ensured that all Shawnee Communities have maintained long-term relationships and constant contact with one another as well as with State and the Federal governments bound by Federal laws regarding Treaties and other agreements; and

WHEREAS, non-Shawnee individuals and groups claiming to be Shawnee are misleading universities, museums, and school children as well as interfering in multiple government functions; and

WHEREAS, the sovereignty and reputation of the Shawnee Tribes continue to be jeopardized due to the acts of individuals and groups who organize and administer fabricated Shawnee "Tribes," "bands," and groups; and

WHEREAS, certain state governments are elevating political groups and conferring upon them designation as "state tribes" which creates the appearance of legitimacy without proper substantiation; and

WHEREAS, groups are seeking to use such deceptive designations in aid of federal acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, fabricated or unsubstantiated claims of sovereign tribal status, by any group is an attack on the sovereignty of all authentic tribal nations; and



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no other Shawnee Tribes, bands, or groups exist outside of those who have been Federally Acknowledged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Citizens of the Three Federally Acknowledged Shawnee Communities as well as those Shawnee individuals whom are citizens of Cherokee Nation (Adopted Shawnee) pursuant to an agreement entered into by and between the Shawnee Tribe and the Cherokee Nation on June 7, 1869 comprise all Shawnee People in existence today and that no other Tribes, groups, or individuals have the right to speak for or represent themselves as Shawnee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any group seeking acknowledgment as a sovereign tribal nation must engage the Department of Interior OFA process or other equitable means to properly establish a verifiable record of descendency from a historical tribe and prior existence as a tribal government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Shawnee leaders should seek alliances with other tribes and organizations to protect the interests set forth in this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be the policy of the Shawnee Tribe Business Council until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution, number R-11-01-2021-H was duly adopted this date, November 1, 2021, by a vote of the Shawnee Tribe Business Council, resulting in a vote of 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 2 absent, with an established quorum.



Ben Barnes, Chief

Attest:



Carolyn Foster, Secretary

