



Resolution

of the

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma,
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Comanche Nation, Delaware Nation,
Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache Tribe,
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi,
Waco, & Tawakonie),

To Support an Exemption of Native Nations from Future Suspensions of Federal Funding Programs or Reevaluation of Services to Tribal Governments and Citizens

WHEREAS, the signatories to this Resolution are the leaders of eight sovereign Native Nations, whose nationhood predates the United States of America, which are recognized by the United States government, and which are guaranteed the rights of self-government, self-determination, due process, and equal protection under laws, treaties, and inherent sovereign rights; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial our ancestors have been resilient in the face of continual attempts to undermine our identities, our families, our beliefs, our ways of knowing, our land bases, and our governments, and these attempts have been manifested in a variety of ways—including through federal law and policy—which continue today; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the first treaty between a sovereign tribal nation (the Lenape) and the United States--the Treaty of Fort Pitt in 1778—the United States has

failed abysmally in honoring these government-to-government agreements, which are the supreme law of the land; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with treaties and laws, it is established that the United States government has undertaken a trust responsibility to Native Nations and people that includes numerous and important obligations, including those to provide financial support for tribal governments, programs, and operations, for law enforcement and public safety, for health care, for housing, for education, and for economic development, among many other areas, and accordingly it must honor those obligations; and

WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming needs in Indian Country, the United States has never fulfilled its financial and other obligations to Native Nations and people, and specifically, Congress has chronically underfunded programs for tribes, including those provided through or under the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with the result that the federal government's promises made to Native people have not been kept; and

WHEREAS, although the program funds, grants, loans, and other financial assistance provided by the federal government to Indian country fails to meet the overwhelming needs of tribes and their citizens, such funding nevertheless provides essential support for the ongoing services provided by tribes to their members, and without such funds many or most tribes cannot sustain many operations beyond the ongoing pay period; and

WHEREAS, since about January 23, 2025, tribal governments and tribal organizations that serve tribal citizens have reported encountering escalating problems with obtaining access to federal accounts, and including but not limited to having their access to federal payment systems shut-off; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Office of the President on January 27, 2025, issued a memorandum (M-25-13) under which all federal agencies were directed that they "must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance" pending further review and analysis by the Trump Administration of such financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, even though it was characterized as "temporary," the pause or suspension of financial assistance programs caused widespread disruption of tribal operations—as well as fear and concern across Indian Country—because many or most

Native Nations faced the prospect of having to limit or suspend services and operations, and to lay-off personnel; and

WHEREAS, even though the directive suspending financial assistance programs was rescinded on January 29, 2025, by a subsequent memorandum (M-25-14), the signatories hereto believe it is imperative that we remind the United States government of its obligations to Native Nations and peoples, and that the treaties with tribes and other laws are indeed the laws of the land, and that the federal budget processes must adhere to and conform with those legal obligations; and

WHEREAS, it is further necessary to remind the United States government that the receipt of federal monies by Native Nations is not a policy initiative, but instead is rooted in our government-to-government relationship with the United States, as memorialized in treaties and laws and enshrined in the federal trust responsibility, as described succinctly in *President Reagan's January 24, 1983, Statement on Indian Policy*:

“This administration believes that responsibilities and resources should be restored to the governments which are closest to the people served. This philosophy applies not only to State and local governments but also to federally recognized American Indian tribes.

When European colonial powers began to explore and colonize this land, they entered into treaties with sovereign Indian nations. Our new nation continued to make treaties and to deal with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis. Throughout our history, despite periods of conflict and shifting national policies in Indian affairs, the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes has endured. The Constitution, treaties, laws, and court decisions have consistently recognized a unique political relationship between Indian tribes and the United States which this administration pledges to uphold.

. . . In support of our policy, we shall continue to fulfill the Federal trust responsibility for the physical and financial resources we hold in trust for the tribes and their members.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the signatories hereto urge the Trump Administration to embrace President Reagan's Statement on Indian Policy, and to show respect for the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the signatories hereto urge the Trump Administration to recognize and acknowledge that Native Nations are governmental and political entities—not racial groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the signatories hereto urge the Office of Management and Budget to issue a broad exemption for financial programs for Native Nations from any future federal funding suspensions or freezes, and that specifically would exempt all existing federal obligations to tribal governments and any accounts paying to tribal governments or entities created to serve tribal citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the signatories hereto urge the Office of Management and Budget to implement a presumption that any federal funding committed or being paid to tribal governments or entities created to serve tribal citizens is a legitimate federal expense, and need not be the subject of any further justification or paperwork by any federal agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the signatories hereto urge the Office of Management and Budget to direct the immediate restoration of access—including through electronic accounts—to all federal payment accounts for tribal governments or entities created to serve tribal citizens.

[Signatures follow on the next page.]

THE UNDERSIGNED, as representatives of their Native Nations, have been authorized to sign this resolution as a statement of their respective governments:




Durrell Cooper (Feb 4, 2025 16:42 CST)

Durrell Cooper, Tribal Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed




Bobby Gonzalez (Feb 3, 2025 14:44 CST)

Bobby Gonzalez, Tribal Chairman
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed





Forrest Tahdooahnippah, Tribal Chairman
Comanche Nation

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed




Reggie Wassana (Feb 3, 2025 14:41 CST)

Reggie Wassana, Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed




Debbie Dotson (Feb 4, 2025 09:14 CST)

Deborah Dotson, President
Delaware Nation

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed




Jennifer Heminokeky (Feb 3, 2025 18:35 CST)

Jennifer Heminokeky, Chairperson
Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache Tribe

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed



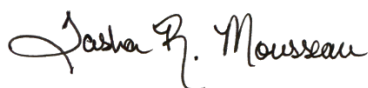


Lawrence Spottedbird, Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed





Tasha R. Mousseau, Vice President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie)

Feb 3, 2025

Date Signed