

*A Resolution Supporting the Cherokee Nation’s Assertion of Its Treaty Right  
to a Delegate in the United States House of Representatives*

Resolution No. [NUMBER]

**WHEREAS,** [INSERT ORGANIZATION SPECIFIC LANGUAGE]

**WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States, through Treaty, Commerce, Supremacy, and Apportionment Clauses and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, recognizes the inherent sovereignty of Indian Tribes and Nations established prior to the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** through treaties, statutes, executive orders, and other legal agreements and laws, the United States took on many legal and moral obligations to Indian people in exchange for hundreds of millions of acres of land; and

**WHEREAS,** since its founding, the [ORGANIZATION] has urged the United States government to fulfill treaty obligations and uphold the federal trust responsibility; and

**WHEREAS,** Article 7 of the Cherokee Nation’s 1835 Treaty of New Echota with the United States states, “The Cherokee Nation having already made great progress in civilization and deeming it important that every proper and laudable inducement should be offered to their people to improve their condition as well as to guard and secure in the most effectual manner the rights guaranteed to them in this treaty, and with a view to illustrate the liberal and enlarged policy of the Government of the United States towards the Indians in their removal beyond the territorial limits of the States, it is stipulated that they shall be entitled to a delegate in the House of Representatives in the United States whenever Congress shall make provision for the same”; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition to explicit language in Article 7 of the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, the Cherokee Nation’s first treaty with the United States, the 1785 Treaty of Hopewell, also includes the right to a congressional deputy in Article 12 and the 1866 Treaty with the Cherokee Nation, affirms the Cherokee Nation’s right to a delegate in Article 31; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2017, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the rights and obligations established under the 1866 treaty remain in effect for the Cherokee Nation and the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 12 of the Cherokee Nation Constitution requires the Principal Chief to appoint a Delegate to the United States House of Representatives and that Delegate is to be confirmed by the Council of the Cherokee Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr. exercised the Nation's treaty right by appointing its first Delegate, Kimberly Teehee, to Congress; and

**WHEREAS,** the Council of the Cherokee Nation unanimously confirmed Kimberly Teehee as Delegate to Congress; and

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] hereby supports the Cherokee Nation's action to exercise its treaty right and calls upon the House of Representatives to fulfill its obligation to the Cherokee Nation by seating Delegate Kimberly Teehee in Congress.