

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

DATE

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz:

I write today as a citizen of Cherokee Nation in response to your request for comments on the discussion draft of the ARTIST Act of 2023.

I strongly support your desire to update and strengthen the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. That said, the discussion draft misses the mark in one key area.

The Indian Arts and Crafts Act's definitions of "Indian" and "Indian Tribe" allow for members of state-recognized tribes to produce and sell "Cherokee" arts and crafts. The law must be changed so to ensure only citizens of Federally-recognized Tribes may produce and sell authentic "Indian" arts and crafts. It is critical that Congress take action in order to safeguard Cherokee artists, artisans, and craftspeople from fraudulent and fake artists who illegitimately claim our tribal history and culture.

Only citizens of the three Federally-recognized Cherokee tribes have a legitimate nexus to Cherokee culture and because of this only citizens of the three Federally-recognized Cherokee tribes should be allowed to produce Cherokee arts and crafts.

I join Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr. in urging you to amend the flawed definitions of "Indian" and "Indian Tribe" in order to protect Cherokee arts, culture, and heritage from continued exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

NAME

cc: Cherokee Nation