

Committee: Rules Committee

Date: 4-16-2020

Committee Date: 4-27-2020

Author: Kim Teehee

Sponsor: Canaan Duncan, Victoria Vazquez, Joe Byrd, Joe Deere,

Dora Patzkowski, Harley Buzzard, Keith Austin, Janees Taylor,

Mike Shambaugh, Julia Coates, Mary Baker Shaw, Rex Jordan,

Wes Nofire, Shawn Crittenden, Mike Dobbins, E. O. Smith,

Daryl Legg

RESOLUTION NO. 17-20

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS IN THE CORANIVIRUS RELIEF FUND

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of the Cherokee people; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee 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 Cherokee Nation is maintaining essential services for our citizens while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and incurring additional expenses for relief activities; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee Nation hospitality and retail business operations have been suspended since March 16, 2020 to protect the health and safety of employees and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation government and businesses have continued to pay employee salaries and benefits during these closures; and

WHEREAS, the revenues generated by these businesses provide Cherokee Nation with critical funding to support services and programs; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the bill was signed into law on March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Title V of the CARES Act created the Coronavirus Relief Fund to help state, local, and tribal governments mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, and set aside \$8 billion to support tribal governments and tribally-owned entities in covering increased expenditures due to the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Congress made clear that the intent of the fund, which is a governmental relief fund, is to address COVID's impact to tribal governments and tribal governmental budgets;

WHEREAS, Alaska Native Corporations are comprised of more than 200 village and 13 regional corporations that are state-chartered, for-profit, and individually-owned entities that do not provide government services or have a government-to-government relationship with the United States; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native Tribal Villages are federally recognized tribes and are rightfully eligible to receive an allocation of the fund; and

WHEREAS, including Alaska Native Corporations would allow for double or even triple-dipping into the fund, improperly providing an outsized chunk of the fund to these businesses and treating them on par with federally recognized Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan congressional intent of the Coronavirus Relief Fund for tribes was made clear through multiple official congressional communications during the discussion of the CARES Act and in subsequent letters since the act's passage; and

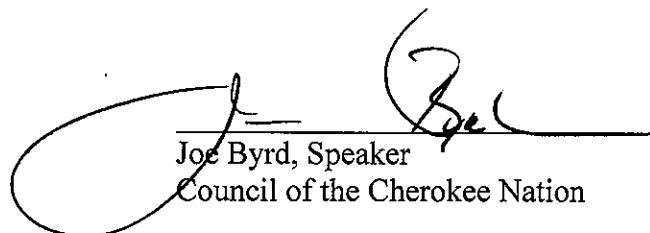
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cherokee Nation opposes the inclusion of Alaska Native Corporations as recipients of the \$8 billion set-aside for tribal governments in the Coronavirus Relief Fund created by the CARES Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cherokee Nation fully supports the letter to the Department of Treasury from the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes addressing this issue dated April 13, 2020.

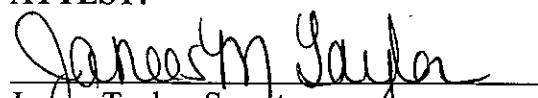
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cherokee Nation requests the Department of Treasury to expeditiously distribute the Coronavirus Relief Funds to federally recognized tribal governments only and publish a list of every recipient and the amount they received immediately upon disbursement.

CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 27th day of April, 2020, having 17 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 17 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.


Joe Byrd, Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation

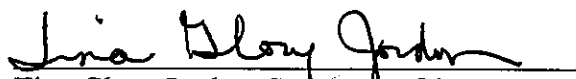
ATTEST:


Janees Taylor, Secretary
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 28th day of April, 2020.


Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:


Tina Glory Jordan, Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Act/Resolution Proposal Form

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE</u>	
Dept/Program:	
Signature/Initial	Date
Executive Director:	
Signature/Initial	Date
Finance (if needed):	
Signature/Initial	Date
Government Resources:	
Signature/Initial	Date
Administration Approval:	
Signature/Initial	Date
<u>LEGISLATIVE CLEARANCE:</u>	
Legal & Legislative Coordinator:	
Signature/Initial	Date
Standing Committee & Date:	
Chairperson:	
Signature/Initial	Date
Returned to Presenter:	
	Date

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS IN THE CORANIVIRUS RELIEF FUND

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Chuck Hoskin Jr.

RESOLUTION PRESENTER: Kim Teehee

COUNCIL SPONSOR: Canaan Duncan, Victoria Vazquez

NARRATIVE:

The Cherokee Nation requests the Department of Treasury to expeditiously distribute the Coronavirus Relief Funds to federally recognized tribal governments only and publish a list of every recipient and the amount they received immediately upon disbursement.