

State of Arkansas
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As Engrossed: H3/9/21

HR 1011

By: Representatives Richmond, Beck, Bentley, Christiansen, M. Davis, Evans, Fortner, Hawks, Holcomb, L. Johnson, Maddox, McClure, M. McElroy, S. Meeks, B. Smith, S. Smith, Vaught, Wardlaw, Wooten

HOUSE RESOLUTION

*TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE
NATION WEST AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.*

Subtitle

*TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
REESTABLISHING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION WEST
AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.*

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West is a coalition of Native American groups with various historical backgrounds from Arkansas, southern Missouri, eastern Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, and identifies as a community with a singular identity known as the Cherokee Nation West; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 1817, the Treaty of 1817 between the United States and the Cherokee Indians declared the Cherokee Nation West as an independent nation; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 1819 the Treaty of 1819 between the United States and the Cherokee Indians outlined the lands held by the Cherokee Nation West as the land west of the Mississippi River along the Arkansas River and White River; and



WHEREAS, the Treaty of 1828 between the United States and the Cherokee Indians attempted to remove the Cherokee Nation West lands but was never recognized or ratified by the full Cherokee Nation West Council; and

WHEREAS, within two (2) years from the date of the Treaty of 1828, Cherokee Nation West citizens started being forcibly removed to land set aside by the United State Government for the relocation of Native Americans known as Indian Territory; and

WHEREAS, in 1832, the United States Supreme Court ruled that American Indian tribes are considered to be sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS, The 1835 Treaty declared that the Keetoowah, Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, and the Cherokee Nation West were not bound by any other treaties and stated that renegotiations of previous treaties must be done with the Keetoowah and Cherokee Nation West; and

WHEREAS, in 1832 Arkansas began passing laws to force the removal of the Cherokee Nation West from Arkansas lands to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, between 1835 and 1909 the Cherokee Nation West was forced to hide its identity but managed to maintain its government and community relationships intact; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West is not:

- (1) Claiming any land or territory;*
- (2) Seeking to obtain any land in trust for the purpose of building a casino; and*
- (3) Seeking compensation of any kind from either the United States or the State of Arkansas; and*

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West formally requests that the Cherokee Nation West be entitled to its own delegate, separate from any delegation from the Cherokee tribes in Oklahoma, to be seated as a nonvoting member of the United States Congress as provided by the 1835 Treaty,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the United States Senate sponsor a petition through the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for the reestablishment of a proper relationship between the Sovereign people of the Cherokee Nation West and the United States Government, including the commissioning of a delegate for the Cherokee Nation West to the United States Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the United States Senate.

/s/Richmond