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OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

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OSAGE NATION CONGRESS

4th Special Session of the 9th Congress

RESOLUTION NUMBER ONCR 25-07

Osage Nation Congress
Received

AS INTRODUCED

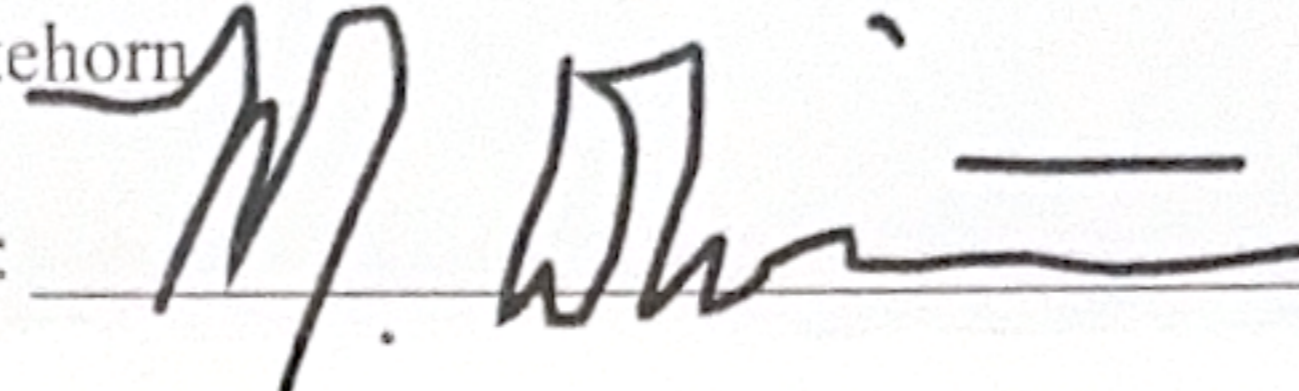
March 3, 2025

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Loyed E. Gill, III
Legislative Services

SPONSOR: Maria Whitehorn

SPONSOR SIGNATURE: _____



A Resolution

To denounce the United States federal government's disregard for the sovereign status of the Osage Nation as is evident by acting on inherent trust functions without consultation or notice.

Be it resolved by the Congress of the Osage Nation:

WHEREAS,

1. The Territory of the Osage Nation, including the Osage Mineral Estate, is the result of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Great and Little Osage Indians, Sept. 29, 1865, 14 Stat. 687; Article 16 of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Cherokee Nation of Indians, July 19, 1866, 14 Stat. 799; and the Act of June 5, 1872, ch. 310, 17 Stat. 228.
2. The Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Osage Agency is one of eleven (11) BIA agencies in Oklahoma, but the Osage Agency is specifically dedicated to the Osage Nation to carry out the United States of America's trust responsibility to the Osage people;
3. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is the federal agency designated to carry out the fiduciary trust responsibility of the United States to federally recognized tribal nations, and as it relates to the Osage, the BIA is obligated by treaty, the 1906 Allotment Act, as amended and the United States Code of Federal Regulation to uphold its trust responsibility to the people of the Osage Nation with respect to our lands and the Osage shareholders with respect to the Osage Mineral Estate, and therefore has an expectation that the U.S. federal government will allocate sufficient resources, positions, and attention to the BIA Osage Agency;
4. For numerous years, the Osage Agency has been underfunded leaving key employment positions unfilled for months or even years at a time,

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negatively effecting the efficiency of services to the Osage people and sound administrative practices required of the mineral estate;

5. The Osage Agency was without a permanent superintendent for much of a three-year period until last year, where a highly qualified, competent superintendent was finally hired;
6. The federal government has indiscriminately terminated the Osage Agency superintendent and slated for termination the Osage Agency lease through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) without consultation or notice to the Osage Nation as the trust beneficiary;
7. The United States government is failing to honor the relationship with Osage Nation as a sovereign nation, and has denied the Osage Nation the opportunity to negotiate federal actions before harmful unilateral decisions were made that appear to weaken and diminish our position as a sovereign nation concerning the Nation's assets and the individual assets of our Osage people held in trust by the federal government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Osage Nation expects the United States government to uphold its trust responsibilities with the respect that is warranted to the original keepers of the land, the Osage Nation, as a sovereign entity; and
2. That the Osage Nation expects the United States government to clearly communicate by consultation and in writing with the Osage Nation Office of the Principal Chief, the Speaker of the Osage Nation Congress and the Chairman of the Osage Minerals Council on all issues that may change our current operating relationship; and
3. That the Osage Nation disavows the decisions to remove the superintendent and close the BIA Osage Agency without consultation.