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CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)

*A resolution to authorize the EBCI to maintain its membership
in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).*

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has been an active member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for decades; and

WHEREAS, NCAI is an organization of Federally-recognized tribes, Alaska Native governments, and non-Federally-recognized ("State-recognized") groups that, according to the NCAI website, works to develop consensus on national policy issues that impact tribal interests; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians supports the mission of NCAI, but became discouraged that the NCAI had moved away from serving the interests of Federally-recognized tribes as it was founded to do and moved toward serving the interests non-Federally-recognized groups; and

WHEREAS on January 8, 2026, the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians passed and thereafter the Principal Chief ratified Resolution No. 96 (2026), authorizing the Tribe to terminate its membership in NCAI, but a date-certain for termination of membership was not imposed; and

WHEREAS, since Resolution No. 96 (2026) was passed and ratified, EBCI leaders and NCAI leaders have met and discussed concerns and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI Tribal Council and Principal Chief have jointly determined that withdrawing from NCAI at this time would not be advantageous to the EBCI or to other Federally-recognized tribes that are NCAI members; and

WHEREAS, this resolution expresses the authority and desire of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to maintain its membership in NCAI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled at which a quorum is present, that the authority expressed in Resolution No. 96 (2026), authorizing the EBCI to terminate its membership in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), is itself terminated, and the Tribe is authorized to maintain its membership in NCAI.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this resolution shall be effective upon ratification by the Principal Chief, and all prior resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded.

Submitted by Mitchell Hicks, Principal Chief.