

PASSED

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: APR 04 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 175 (2024)

A resolution opposing new construction on Moccasin Bend, a peninsula on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and supporting efforts to preserve Moccasin Bend's natural, historic and cultural resources.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Tribe) is a federally recognized Indian tribe whose ancestral homelands include a large part of North Carolina, northwest Georgia, eastern Tennessee and southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee people have occupied this region for thousands of years, but most were forcibly removed in 1838 by the U.S. government, on what is now called the Trail of Tears, under authority of the Indian Removal Act of 1830; and

WHEREAS, the capitol of Cherokee at the time was New Echota, near present-day Calhoun, in Northwest Georgia, and Cherokee citizens were well-established there and at nearby Chattanooga, Tennessee. Historians and archeologists believe the first contact between Europeans and American Indians in the area was during the year 1513; and

WHEREAS, American Indians occupied the Tennessee River peninsula known as Moccasin Bend for thousands of years and there is evidence of ancient villages and burial mounds at the site; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1800s, travelers crossed the Tennessee River at Moccasin Bend by using Brown's Ferry, which was owned and operated by the Brown family, who were mixed (Cherokee and European) ancestry; and

WHEREAS, in 1805 the United States government built what is known as the "Federal Road" across Moccasin Bend, at the site of Brown's Ferry, and this road is well-documented as being part of the Trail of Tears. The Federal Road was also used by Union army supply wagons during the Civil War in 1863; and

WHEREAS, efforts to preserve Moccasin Bend began in the early 20th century, with a vision that it would become a National Park. That effort was abandoned in 1953 by Tennessee Governor Frank Clements, and Moccasin Bend has seen multiple developments since then: the State of Tennessee built the Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute there in 1961; and local officials and businesses have built a law enforcement firearms training range; radio towers; a golf course; and a wastewater treatment facility on Moccasin Bend; and

1 **WHEREAS,** Moccasin Bend is the only National Historic Landmark in Hamilton County,
2 Tennessee and the only National Archeological District in the United States; and
3

4 **WHEREAS,** Moccasin Bend is an important part of Cherokee history, and should be preserved.
5

6 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of
7 Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the
8 Tribe opposes new construction activities on the Tennessee River peninsula known
9 as Moccasin Bend, in Hamilton County, Tennessee.
10

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Tribe supports efforts to preserve Moccasin Bend's
12 natural, historic and cultural resources.
13

14 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that all prior resolutions that are inconsistent with this
15 resolution are rescinded, and this resolution shall become effective when ratified
16 by the Principal Chief.
17

18
19 *Submitted by the Michell Hicks, Principal Chief, Alan B. Ensley, Vice Chief, and Tribal Council.*

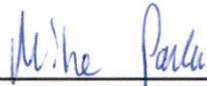
The attached Resolution/Ordinance No. 175 dated APRIL 4, 2024 was:

PASSED (X)

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council on APRIL 4, 2024 by 100 voting for the act
and 0 members voting against it as follows:

VOTE	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Richard French	X			
Perry Shell	X			
Boyd Owle	X			
Bucky Brown	X			
Tom Wahnetah	X			
David Wolfe	X			
Adam Wachacha	X			
Mike Parker	X			
Bo Crowe	X			
Jim Owle	X			
Dike Sneed	X			
Michael Stamper	X			
	100	0	0	0



TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



ENGLISH CLERK



PRINCIPAL CHIEF

APPROVED (✓) VETOED ()

VETO UPHeld () VETO DENIED ()

DATE: 4-19-24

I hereby certify that the foregoing act of the Council was duly:

PASSED ()

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council after the same has been interpreted by the Official Interpreter and
has been fully and freely discussed.

INTERPRETED ()

OMITTED ()