



Cherokee Council House

Cherokee, North Carolina

---

Date

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

WHEREAS, Principal Chief Michell Hicks has established EBCI Tribal Food Sovereignty as one of his priorities; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan identifies the need for "Growing Tribal Health and Healing" with a goal to "Increase the utilization of natural resources by FY2027" (Goal C.1) and an underlying objective of "Creating sustainable methods of food sovereignty" (Objective C.1.1); and

WHEREAS, Resolution number 208 (2024) submitted by NAIWA and passed on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was characterized as one of the most important resolutions passed and it stated the importance of the EBCI's pursuit of Tribal Food Sovereignty and included the establishment of a site for meat processing; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Cooperative Extension Program received \$6,485,000 from USDA to build its own Meat Processing Facility; and

WHEREAS, the program has identified a site that will allow animals to be held in a peaceful and quiet holding area prior to processing so that the animal and resulting meat are in the best possible condition; and

WHEREAS, this site shall also be used for food production through which will be a low impact activity on this site considering any archeological importance of the site and this site is not in proximity to flood plain; and

WHEREAS, the EBCI lost its food production and nursery when Qualla LLC took over the Jesse Owle Dugan Green House and Nursery in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 we have seen food shortages with the Tribal Food Distribution Program, catastrophic damage to food systems in WNC resulting from Tropical Storm Helene, and expected impacts to national food systems resulting from drought, storms, and other environmental stresses; and

WHEREAS, the identified site was originally purchased in 2018 via Resolution 203 passed on May 1, 2018 for housing; and

WHEREAS the land purchased on Old #4 Road consisting of Parcels 603-A and 603-B purchased by Resolution 491(2025) for developing a Meat Processing and Food Sovereignty Site shall be exchanged to housing for the land identified in this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Council assembled where a quorum is present that the land and associated structures and infrastructure located on the west side of Camp Creek Rd consisting of approximately 33 acres part of parcel: Jackson County Parcel ID# 7624-10-5375 purchased in 2018 by Resolution 203 (5/1/2018) shall be used ad a Tribal Food Sovereignty Development Property and shall be used for this purpose which shall include the construction of a meat processing facility, include a livestock feeding and holding area, be used for crop production, and may be used for animal grazing, growing food, growing horticultural, and culturally significant plants. The EBCI Cooperative Extension Program of the Operation's Division, will be authorized to pursue endeavors which support EBCI Tribal Food Sovereignty on this property.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Principal Chief is authorized to carry out the intent of the resolution, which shall remain in effect until implemented or rescinded,

Submitted by: Ronald "Chumper" Walker, Director of EBCI Cooperative Extension