

RESOLUTION NO. 92 (2026)

WHEREAS: the Eastern Band of Cherokee has a profound relationship to their Ancestral homelands and has stewarded them since time immemorial and recognizes that place names carry deep cultural, historical, and spiritual meaning; and

WHEREAS, as a sovereign nation, it is the inherent responsibility of the Eastern Band of Cherokee to lead with courage and conviction in confronting and opposing social injustice wherever it arises;

WHEREAS racist and derogatory place names on what is now public lands undermine our efforts to honor truth, promote healing, and preserve Indigenous heritage; and

WHEREAS in September 2025, Senator Warren reintroduced the Reconciliation in Place Names Act (RPNA) in the 119th Congress, which would establish a consistent federal process to review and revise offensive names on what is now federal lands, restore the federal advisory committee (first established by Secretary Haaland) with permanent status and ensure Indigenous representation among other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS the RPNA aligns with the Eastern Band of Cherokee's mandate to cultural preservation, intergenerational justice, and commitment to collaboration with federal partners to ensure place names honor Cherokee values and legacy; and

WHEREAS a formal proclamation of support from the Eastern Band of Cherokee will strengthen lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., demonstrate solidarity with other Indigenous nations, and reinforce the urgency of the act's purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Council assembled, at which a quorum is present, that the Tribal Council hereby expresses its full support for the Reconciliation in Place Names Act and urges the United States Congress to pass this legislation without delay.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastern Band of Cherokee will inform tribal committees, tribal citizens, and community partners about this resolution and encourage them to support this

tribal initiative by contacting members of Congress, attending coalition meetings concerning renaming and tribal issues, and sharing their perspectives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal Council establishes an Eastern Band of Cherokee Place Names Committee to coordinate EBC-led renaming efforts to identify and lead official tribal renaming initiatives, to ensure community voices guide committee decisions, to build relationships with partners in Ancestral homelands, and to expand the Cherokee narrative around place names.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Eastern Band of Cherokee Place Names Committee will actively engage with state and federal renaming place names boards to ensure decisions about place names in Cherokee Ancestral homelands have the insight of the original people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians shall make advocacy for the *Reconciliation in Place Names Act* a priority within its lobbying and legislative agenda in the United States Congress, and shall direct its representatives, legal counsel, and federal partners to actively pursue passage of this legislation, ensuring the voices and values of the Cherokee people are represented in all federal decision-making regarding place names.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Submitted By:

Kimberly Smith(EBCI), Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names former member

Jessica Lambert(Choctaw, EBCI Descendant), Coalition for Outdoor Renaming and Education Co-Chair

Avery Weatherly (EBCI), Natural Resources Department, Conservation Outreach Coordinator