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CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2025)

A resolution requesting the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to take certain deeded real property, being approximately 84.86 acres, more or less, owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and situated in Qualla Township, Jackson County, North Carolina, into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribal nation having governmental jurisdiction over its lands that are held in trust by the United States of America for the benefit of the Tribe.

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Tribal Council is the legislative body of the Tribe and is authorized and empowered under § 16 and § 23 of the Tribe's Charter and Governing Document, and Cherokee Code § 47B-1, to direct the management and control of all real property belonging to the Tribe, meaning all real property held by the Tribe or by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of the Interior has authority under 25 USC 5108 and 25 CFR Part 151 to acquire land and hold it in trust for the benefit of Indians including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has acquired title in fee simple to three separate tracts of land adjacent to Thomas Valley Road situated in Qualla Township, Jackson County, North Carolina, totaling approximately 84.86 acres, more or less, and is off reservation lands subject to the laws of the State of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the tracts in question are part of the aboriginal lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition by the Secretary of the Interior is necessary to facilitate the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians economic development, housing and Tribal self-determination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, at which a quorum is present, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby requested to accept the following real property and to place the real property in trust for the benefit of the Tribe:

- 1 (a) The one tract of land, containing 12.56 acres, more or less, and identified in
2 Exhibit A to that certain deed dated April 24, 2025, from Margaret Fay Varner,
3 Roberta Varner Means, F/K/A Roberta Varner Arsuffi, as Trustees and
4 Beneficiaries of the Revocable Trust Agreement of J. Robert Varner under
5 Revocable Trust Agreement Dated March 18, 1994, as amended on March 6,
6 2002, Grantor, to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Grantee, and recorded
7 in Book 2396, Page 1606-1610, Jackson County, North Carolina Register of
8 Deeds.
9
- 10 (b) The one tract of land, containing 18.45 acres, more or less, and identified in
11 Exhibit A to that certain deed dated April 29, 2025, from Margaret Fay Varner,
12 F/K/A Margaret Varner Payne, unmarried, Grantor, to the Eastern Band of
13 Cherokee Indians, Grantee, and recorded in Book 2396, Page 1611-1614,
14 Jackson County, North Carolina Register of Deeds.
15
- 16 (c) The one tract of land, containing 53.85 acres, more or less, and identified in
17 Exhibit A to that certain deed dated April 24, 2025, from Roberta Varner
18 Means, F/K/A Roberta Varner Arsuffi, and husband, Gary Means, Grantor, to
19 the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Grantee, and recorded in Book 2396,
20 Page 1615-1619, Jackson County, North Carolina Register of Deeds.
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Principal Chief is hereby authorized to submit the
23 necessary fee to trust application and supporting documents to the U.S. Secretary
24 of the Interior to have the property described in in this resolution placed into trust
25 with the United States for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and
26 the Principal Chief is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents
27 including deed(s) to transfer the property described herein to the United States in
28 trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
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30 BE IT FINALLY Resolved that all resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are
31 rescinded, and that this resolution shall become effective when ratified by the
32 Principal Chief.
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34
35 *Submitted by Mitchell Hicks, Principal Chief.*
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