

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE  
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*A resolution to authorize the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to withdraw from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and terminate its membership therein.*

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 the Tribe is discouraged by the shifting priorities of NCAI; and

WHEREAS, NCAI has moved away from serving the interests of Federally-recognized tribes which it was founded to serve and that have a trust relationship with government-to-government status with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the interests non-Federally-recognized groups often diverge significantly from the interests of Federally-recognized tribes, and the divergence harms Federally-recognized tribes and diminishes their sovereignty; and

WHEREAS the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has determined that continued membership in NCAI is not helpful to the Tribe, and the Tribe is authorized to withdraw from, and terminate 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, the Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribe to withdraw from the National Congress of American Indians and to terminate its membership in that organization.

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upon ratification by the Principal Chief, and all prior resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded.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 Michell Hicks, Principal Chief.*