

**TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO PLACE PROPERTY IN PITTSBURG COUNTY IN TRUST STATUS
WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

A COUNCIL BILL

TO AUTHORIZE the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place this acquisition of land into trust status with the United States of America.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article IX, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Choctaw Tribal Council (the "Council") shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of tribal property;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Chief shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation;

WHEREAS, the Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with authority to acquire land for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of its people and taking further advantage of the opportunities for self-determination and economic independence;

WHEREAS, the Nation is eligible to utilize the fee to trust application process to request the Secretary of the Interior (the "Secretary") to acquire land in trust for Tribes. 25 CFR § 151 (2020). The authority to acquire the proposed acquisition for the Nation is contained in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984); 25 U.S.C. § 5108, formerly 25 U.S.C. § 465;

WHEREAS, the Nation has acquired fee title to 640 acres of real property described as all of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 17 East, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. The subject property is within the exterior treaty boundaries of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and as such, is within the Nation's reservation identified in the Treaty of April 28, 1866, (14 Stat. 769);

WHEREAS, the Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to place this land into trust to accommodate increase in governmental services for tribal members, promote tribal self-determination, sovereignty, self-sufficiency, and economic independence;

WHEREAS, The Nation has approximately 200,000 enrolled members, approximately 47,649 living in the tribal service area. See BIA, American Indian Population and Labor Force Report, (2010). The Nation expects tribal membership to increase along with tribal services. This growth is expected to continue, and this acquisition will address the Nation's need for additional land;

WHEREAS, the Nation intends to continue using the property for rural agricultural purposes and the land use will not change. The land is vacant, undeveloped, and wooded pasture. The Nation recognized the need to engage in conservation in order to protect and preserve natural resources and at the same time, allow for controlled recreational use or economic development when advantageous to further achieve the Nation's goal of self-sufficiency;

WHEREAS, the Nation requests the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior place the subject property into trust status for the benefit of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and its members; and

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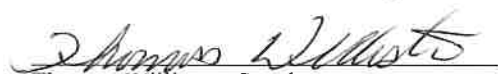
WHEREAS, the Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to place the property described below, located in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, in trust status with the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Bill be cited as authorization and approval for the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, or his designee, to make a request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to place the following property described below into trust status in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs policy and procedure for the acquisition of land and for the purpose of increasing the tribal trust land base:

All of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 17 East, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, containing 640 acres, surface interest only.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on February 11, 2023. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 51 -23 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 2-14-23

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Purpose/Need of Council Bill: This Council Bill authorizes and approves the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, or his designee, to make a request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, to place property in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, into trust status in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Affairs policy and procedure for the acquisition of land. The land is vacant, undeveloped, and wooded pasture. The Nation intends to continue using the property for rural agricultural purposes and land use will not change. The Nation recognized the need to engage in conservation in order to protect and preserve natural resources, and at the same time, allow for controlled recreational use or economic development when advantageous to further achieve the Nation's goal of self-sufficiency. Placing lands into trust supports strengthening financial growth and economic sustainability. This will benefit the tribe and all tribal members.

Title of Council Bill: TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO PLACE PROPERTY IN PITTSBURG COUNTY IN TRUST STATUS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Agency: Choctaw Nation Land & Title

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by/Project Director: Donna Loper, Executive Director, Land Title, and Natural Resources; Kelly McKaughan, SEO



Council District 11

Subject

Pittsburg
Pushmataha

Pittsburg
Pushmataha