

**NOMINATION OF DR. EVAN WHITLEY TO SERVE ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

JAMES DRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE a Resolution supporting the nomination of Dr. Evan Whitley, Executive Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, for appointment to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Tribal Advisory Committee as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture seeks nominations to the Tribal Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation"), the Chief has the power to "establish and appoint committees, members and delegates to represent the Choctaw Nation with the advice and consent of the Tribal Council";

WHEREAS, Chief Gary Batton nominates Dr. Evan Whitley for appointment to the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee to represent the Nation, our Choctaw tribal members, agricultural businesses and natural resources management in the Choctaw Nation and Indian Country as a whole;

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitley's education and expertise make him a great fit for this role, as well as his ongoing commitment to serving the Choctaw Nation's lands and agricultural operations through productive business and natural resources practices;

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Nation supports efforts to build and grow our relationship with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other agricultural entities in Indian Country to grow, develop, and support our farms, ranches, and tribal members involved in agriculture;

WHEREAS, Dr. Whitley is highly qualified and equipped to serve on this committee. He is knowledgeable both in the science and business of agriculture. Combining these skills, he has set the gold standard for our cattle herds and land management, as well as increased profits for our Choctaw Nation ranches. His leadership has also increased the regional and national presence of Choctaw Beef. He oversees our meat processing facility, all Choctaw cattle ranches, as well as the Nation's pecan orchards. He also oversees all Forestry and Land Management programs for the Choctaw Nation. His appointment to this national role will proudly represent the Choctaw Nation and its heritage of agricultural production as tribal operations, sound land management practices, as well as the many Choctaw farmers and ranchers Dr. Whitley and his team work with daily; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to support the nomination of Dr. Evan Whitley for appointment to the United States Department of Agriculture Tribal Advisory Committee as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Resolution be cited as approval for supporting the nomination of Dr. Evan Whitley for appointment to the United States Department of Agriculture Tribal Advisory Committee as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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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 a meeting of the Tribal Council in Tuskahoma, OK on September 13, 2025. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CR- 14 -25 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.


James Dry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Baton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 9-17-25

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Purpose/Need of Council Resolution: The purpose of this Resolution is to support the nomination of Dr. Evan Whitley for appointment to the United States Department of Agriculture Tribal Advisory Committee as a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Being more than qualified, Dr. Whitley's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Range Management, Master of Science in Range Nutrition and a Doctor of Philosophy in Beef Cattle Management & Nutrition from Texas A&M University, as well as a Master's of Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Previously, Dr. Whitley worked for Texas A&M University, The Noble Foundation, Dakota Beef and the Noble Research Institute. Presently, Evan owns and operates Whitley Ag. Services, a contract research and consulting company, and is the Executive Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. In his current role he is responsible for the management and strategic oversight for agricultural programs to ensure operational, financial and environmental success.

This Tribal Advisory Committee, established by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, is established to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on matters relating to Tribal and Indian Affairs. This appointment, if approved, would fill a seat at the table for the Choctaw Nation for a national committee via a Secretarial appointment.

Strategic Goal: This Resolution fulfills strategic goals in the subheading of the legislative agenda of getting Choctaws appointed to political positions, under the heading of Protect and Promote Choctaw Sovereignty and Culture.

Title of Council Resolution: NOMINATION OF DR. EVAN WHITLEY TO SERVE ON THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agency: Chief's Office, Government Affairs

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by: Sara Jane Smallwood Cocke, Government Affairs