

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1011

4
5 By: Representatives Richmond, Beck, Bentley, Christiansen, M. Davis, Evans, Fortner, Hawks, Holcomb,
6 L. Johnson, Maddox, McClure, M. McElroy, S. Meeks, B. Smith, S. Smith, Vaught, Wardlaw, Wooten

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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9 TO RECOGNIZE THE CHEROKEE NATION WEST AND REESTABLISH
10 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE
11 NATION WEST AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Subtitle

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15 TO RECOGNIZE THE CHEROKEE NATION WEST AND
16 REESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
17 PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION WEST AND
18 THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

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21 WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West is a coalition of Native American
22 groups with various historical backgrounds from Arkansas, southern Missouri,
23 eastern Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, and identifies as a community with a
24 singular identity known as the Cherokee Nation West; and

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26 WHEREAS, on July 8, 1817, the Treaty of 1817 between the United States
27 and the Cherokee Indians declared the Cherokee Nation West as an independent
28 nation; and

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30 WHEREAS, on February 27, 1819 the Treaty of 1819 between the United
31 States and the Cherokee Indians outlined the lands held by the Cherokee
32 Nation West as the land west of the Mississippi River along the Arkansas
33 River and White River; and

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35 WHEREAS, the Treaty of 1828 between the United States and the Cherokee
36 Indians attempted to remove the Cherokee Nation West lands but was never



1 recognized or ratified by the full Cherokee Nation West Council; and

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3 WHEREAS, within two (2) years from the date of the Treaty of 1828,
4 Cherokee Nation West citizens started being forcibly removed to land set
5 aside by the United State Government for the relocation of Native Americans
6 known as Indian Territory; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 1832, the United States Supreme Court ruled that American
9 Indian tribes are considered to be sovereign nations; and

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11 WHEREAS, The 1835 Treaty declared that the Keetoowah, Cherokee Indians
12 in Oklahoma, and the Cherokee Nation West were not bound by any other
13 treaties and stated that renegotiations of previous treaties must be done
14 with the Keetoowah and Cherokee Nation West; and

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16 WHEREAS, in 1832 Arkansas began passing laws to force the removal of
17 the Cherokee Nation West from Arkansas lands to the Indian Territory in
18 Oklahoma; and

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20 WHEREAS, between 1835 and 1909 the Cherokee Nation West was forced to
21 hide its identity but managed to maintain its government and community
22 relationships intact; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West is not claiming any land or
25 territory, and is not seeking compensation of any kind from either the United
26 States or the State of Arkansas; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West formally requests that the Cherokee
29 Nation West be entitled to its own delegate, separate from any delegation
30 from the Cherokee tribes in Oklahoma, to be seated as a nonvoting member of
31 the United States Congress as provided by the 1835 Treaty,

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33 NOW THEREFORE,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
35 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

1 THAT the United States Senate sponsor a petition through the Committee
2 on Indian Affairs to the United States Department of the Interior for the
3 reestablishment of a proper relationship between the Sovereign people of the
4 Cherokee Nation West and the United States Government, including the
5 commissioning of a delegate for the Cherokee Nation West to the United States
6 Congress.

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be sent
9 to the members of the United States Senate.