

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

As Engrossed: H3/9/21

HR 1011

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

HOUSE RESOLUTION

*TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE
NATION WEST AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.*

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Subtitle

*TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
REESTABLISHING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE PEOPLE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION WEST
AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.*

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

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

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

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1 WHEREAS, the Treaty of 1828 between the United States and the Cherokee
2 Indians attempted to remove the Cherokee Nation West lands but was never
3 recognized or ratified by the full Cherokee Nation West Council; and
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5 WHEREAS, within two (2) years from the date of the Treaty of 1828,
6 Cherokee Nation West citizens started being forcibly removed to land set
7 aside by the United State Government for the relocation of Native Americans
8 known as Indian Territory; and
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10 WHEREAS, in 1832, the United States Supreme Court ruled that American
11 Indian tribes are considered to be sovereign nations; and
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13 WHEREAS, The 1835 Treaty declared that the Keetoowah, Cherokee Indians
14 in Oklahoma, and the Cherokee Nation West were not bound by any other
15 treaties and stated that renegotiations of previous treaties must be done
16 with the Keetoowah and Cherokee Nation West; and
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18 WHEREAS, in 1832 Arkansas began passing laws to force the removal of
19 the Cherokee Nation West from Arkansas lands to the Indian Territory in
20 Oklahoma; and
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22 WHEREAS, between 1835 and 1909 the Cherokee Nation West was forced to
23 hide its identity but managed to maintain its government and community
24 relationships intact; and
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26 *WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West is not:*

27 *(1) Claiming any land or territory;*

28 *(2) Seeking to obtain any land in trust for the purpose of*
29 *building a casino; and*

30 *(3) Seeking compensation of any kind from either the United*
31 *States or the State of Arkansas; and*
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33 WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation West formally requests that the Cherokee
34 Nation West be entitled to its own delegate, separate from any delegation
35 from the Cherokee tribes in Oklahoma, to be seated as a nonvoting member of
36 the United States Congress as provided by the 1835 Treaty,

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NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

*THAT the United States Senate sponsor a petition through the Senate
Committee on Indian Affairs for the reestablishment of a proper relationship
between the Sovereign people of the Cherokee Nation West and the United
States Government, including the commissioning of a delegate for the Cherokee
Nation West to the United States Congress.*

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

/s/Richmond