

PASSED

Cherokee Council House
Cherokee, North Carolina

OCT 22 2013

Date

Resolution No. 10 (2013)

WHEREAS, Eastern Band Cherokee leaders recently became aware of the Catawba Indian Nation's application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to have 16 acres of land in Cleveland County, North Carolina, taken into trust;

WHEREAS, the land the Catawba Indian Nation seeks to acquire and convert into trust status is located within the aboriginal territory of the Cherokee, as defined by the Cherokee Treaty of July 20, 1777, the 1884 Royce Map of Cherokee Land Sessions, and a well-established historical record of the Cherokees defending the Cleveland County area against Catawba encroachment;

WHEREAS, a well-established historical record also demonstrates that the Catawba Indian Nation does not have aboriginal ties to Cleveland County, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band Cherokee Tribal Historical Preservation Office (THPO) is charged with protecting Cherokee archaeological and cultural resources, ensuring historic preservation of significant Cherokee sites, and protecting Cherokee burials from disturbance and excavation;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band THPO has acted to protect Cherokee cultural resources in Cleveland County, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the sole reason the Catawba Indian Nation, which is based in South Carolina, has indicated that it wants to acquire this land in North Carolina is to find a more accommodating legal environment to build a casino;

WHEREAS, encroachment of one Indian tribe into the aboriginal territory of another tribe causes unnecessary conflict between tribes;

WHEREAS, the federal laws that the Catawba Indian Nation relies upon to support its efforts to acquire land and build a casino in North Carolina simply do not allow the Tribe to cross state lines into North Carolina, acquire lands into federal trust, and build a casino. Statements to the contrary are legally incorrect and should not be relied upon by federal, state, or local government officials;

WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) has passed a resolution opposing tribes crossing state lines to acquire land in another tribe's territory, which the Catawba Indian Nation supported, and the Catawba Indian Nation should adhere to that inter-tribal policy statement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians opposes any effort by the Catawba Indian Nation or another Indian tribe to encroach on the aboriginal territory of the Eastern Band and establish a new reservation in Cherokee territory.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution become effective upon ratification of the Principal Chief.

Submitted by: Tribal Council