HLS 17RS-306 ENGROSSED

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

INDIAN AFFAIRS: Recognizes the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe of the state

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe.
3	WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced many Indians living east of the
4	Mississippi River to sell their lands and move to less fertile lands on a Western reservation
5	that would not be taken from them; and
6	WHEREAS, the five tribes most affected by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 through
7	the loss of lives, homes, and land were the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, and
8	Cherokee; and
9	WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 caused Indians living in the South to
10	embark on what became known as the "Trail of Tears" from 1830 to 1842; and
11	WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, many small groups of
12	the five tribes escaped and crossed the Mississippi River into Louisiana and settled near the
13	central and western part of Louisiana in the present-day parishes of Rapides, Vernon,
14	Natchitoches, and Calcasieu, which was referred to as "No Man's Land" or "Rio Hondo"; and
15	WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana exists today, and the tribe has full
16	documentation of bloodlines of all tribal members, as well as many documented sources
17	regarding the activities of the tribe; and
18	WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state of Louisiana recognize Indian tribes within
19	its borders, to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage and improve
20	their economic conditions, and to assist them in the achievement of their just rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States and the United

States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized, requested, and urged to take such

steps as are necessary to effect the formal recognition of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana

as an Indian tribe, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana

are no less than those of other Indian tribes in the United States, and, accordingly, to take

such executive or congressional action as may be appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 15 Engrossed

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2017 Regular Session

Cox

Recognizes the Natchitoches Tribe of La. as an Indian tribe.

Memorializes congress to take necessary steps to effect formal recognition of the Natchitoches Tribe of La. as an Indian tribe, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Natchitoches Tribe of La. are no less than other Indian tribes in the U.S.