

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137 (Substitute for House
Concurrent Resolution No. 7 by John Smith)

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SMITH

INDIAN AFFAIRS. Recognizes Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee
Confederacy, as an Indian tribe and memorializes the Congress of the
United States to do the same

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, as an
3 Indian tribe and to memorialize the Congress of the United States to do
4 the same.

5 WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced many Indians
6 living east of the Mississippi River to sell their land and move to less fertile
7 lands on a Western reservation; and

8 WHEREAS, the five tribes most affected by the Indian Removal Act
9 of 1830 were the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, and Cherokee; and

10 WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 caused Southern Indians
11 to embark on what came to be known as "The Trail of Tears" from 1830 until
12 1842; and

13 WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, many small
14 groups of the five tribes escaped and crossed the Mississippi River into
15 Louisiana and settled near the central and western part of Louisiana in
16 Rapides, Vernon, and Natchitoches parishes, much of what was known at one
17 time as "No Man's Land"; and

1 WHEREAS, today there exists the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana
2 Cherokee Confederacy, a domestic nonprofit corporation, registered with the
3 secretary of state of Louisiana; and

4 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state of Louisiana to recognize the
5 Indian tribes within the borders of the state, to support their aspirations for the
6 preservation of their cultural heritage and the improvement of their economic
7 conditions, and to assist them in their just rights.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana
9 formally recognizes the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States
11 and the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized,
12 requested, and urged to take such steps as are necessary to effect, in the near
13 future, formal recognition of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee
14 Confederacy, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Four Winds Tribe,
15 Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, are no less, if not indeed greater, than those
16 of other Indian tribes in the United States, and, therefore, to take such
17 executive or congressional action as may be appropriate.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be
19 transmitted to the president of the United States, the presiding officers of the
20 Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States,
21 each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the director of the
22 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.

John Smith

HCR No. 137

Provides that the Legislature of Louisiana formally recognize the Four Winds
Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy.

Memorializes congress to take necessary steps to effect formal recognition of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy are no less, if not greater, than other Indian tribes in the United States.