

RESOLUTION OF THE FOUR TRIBES IN KANSAS
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

RESOLUTION No. 2025-001

**Calling on Congress to promptly pass the “Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act”
and to ensure Haskell’s autonomy, financial stability, and capacity to provide a culturally
grounded, high-quality education for Native students**

- WHEREAS:** Each of the four abovenamed Indian Tribes in Kansas (the “Four Tribes”) are federally-recognized and sovereign Indian Tribes and maintain a government to government relationship with the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** The Four Tribes are each organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat.378); and
- WHEREAS:** Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) was founded in 1884 by the United States Army and has evolved from an industrial training school to a fully accredited university that provides tuition-free higher education to Native students from over 140 Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS:** Haskell holds significant historical and cultural importance as a four-year postsecondary institution governed by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), serving an entirely Native American student population, preserving and advancing Tribal heritage while equipping Native students with the skills needed to serve their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Haskell serves as a key institution for educational advancement, community leadership, and economic development within Indian Country, supporting approximately 800 students annually and providing degrees that reflect and honor Tribal cultures and histories; and
- WHEREAS:** despite its critical role, Haskell has faced decades of mismanagement, infrastructure neglect, and operational challenges under the BIE, leading to congressional inquiries and calls for systemic reform; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States federal government has a long-standing trust and treaty responsibility to support the education and welfare of Tribal Nations and their citizens, including ensuring access to high-quality, culturally relevant education; and

WHEREAS: the “Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act” (“Act”) seeks to federally charter Haskell as an independent institution governed by a Board of Trustees nominated by Tribal representatives, transferring its governance from the BIE while ensuring continued federal support; and

WHEREAS: the Act authorizes annual appropriations of \$21 million (with provisions for necessary increases), establishes a Program Enhancement Trust Fund with a \$5 million capital contribution, and creates a separate Capital Improvement Trust Fund to support construction, renovation, and infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS: the Act aligns with the broader goals of Tribal self-determination by empowering Tribal representatives to have a direct role in the governance and success of Haskell Indian Nations University; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Four Federally Recognized Tribes of Kansas expresses its strong support for the “Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act” and urges Congress to pass this legislation to ensure the continued success and growth of Haskell Indian Nations University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Four Federally Recognized Tribes of Kansas calls on the federal government to fully fund Haskell Indian Nations University as part of its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, recognizing that investing in Haskell is an investment in the future of Native communities and leadership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional representatives.

CERTIFICATION


The foregoing Four Tribes Resolution was considered at their meeting on the 29th day of January 2025, at which all of them were present, and it has been duly approved by an authorized representative of each of the Four Kansas Tribes.

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

**Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the
Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas**

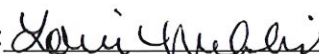


Tim Rhodd, Chairperson

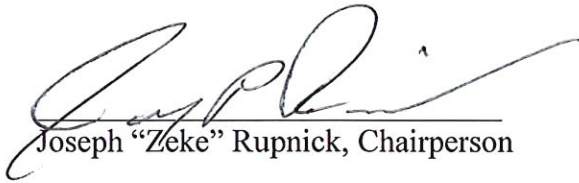


Gail Cheatham, Chairperson

Attest: 

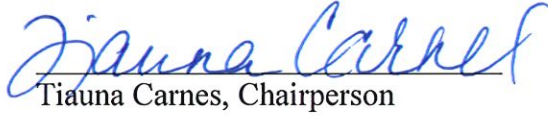
Attest: 

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation


Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Chairperson

Attest: Donna Melkin

**Sac and Fox Nation
Of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska**


Tiauna Carnes, Chairperson

Attest: Donna Melkin

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

We write to inform you of the recently filed draft legislation to establish Haskell Indian Nations University as a federally chartered educational institution.

Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell) was established in 1884 through federal legislation designed to fulfill the United States' treaty and trust obligations to provide high-quality education to American Indian and Alaska Native students..¹ Today, it is a fully accredited land-grant university and enrolls approximately 1,000 students each semester from 130 federally recognized tribes.^{2,3,4} Haskell is the only Tribal University in the country with an entirely indigenous population, serving the educational needs of Indian Country through higher education degrees that honor the culture and legacy of Tribal people..⁵ Currently, Haskell is one of only two postsecondary institutions operating under the governance of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).⁶ According to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the BIE is responsible for allocating resources to maintain the school's infrastructure, funding, and operations.⁷

Over the past decade, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) has faced significant scrutiny regarding its oversight of Haskell Indian Nations University. Concerns have been raised about the institution's infrastructure and resource allocation, student safety and retention, faculty and staff retention, and overall governance. Additionally, inadequate communication from BIE has exacerbated these issues. BIE has yet to prioritize the University, resulting in ongoing challenges in administration, operations, and finances. These persistent issues have hindered Haskell's ability to effectively fulfill its educational mission and support its students.

The draft legislation, namely, the "Haskell Indian Nations University Improvement Act", seeks to federally charter Haskell while continuing to secure federal financial support for the University. This legislation would transfer governance from the BIE to the Haskell University system, allowing the institution to make decisions that are in the best interests of its students and the Tribal Community. As a unique, historic, and invaluable institution, Haskell must deliver a high-quality education in a safe and stable environment for Indigenous students. Taking decisive action to

¹ Bureau of Indian Affairs, *What is the federal Indian trust responsibility?*, <https://www.bia.gov/faqs/what-federal-indian-trust-responsibility>. Accessed on December 9, 2024.

² U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Institute of Food and Agriculture, *Land-Grant Colleges and Universities*, <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa/how-we-work/partnerships/land-grant-colleges-universities>. Accessed on December 9, 2024.

³ Haskell Indian Nations University, *Accreditation*, <https://haskell.edu/academics/accreditation>. Accessed on December 9, 2024

⁴ Haskell Indian Nations University, *School History*, <https://haskell.edu/about/history/>. Accessed on December 9, 2024.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Bureau of Indian Education, *About Us*, <https://www.bie.edu/topic-page/bureau-indian-education>. Accessed on December 9, 2024.

⁷ Code of Federal Regulations, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-25/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-32/section-32.3>. Accessed on December 9, 2024.

improve its operations is essential to fulfilling the government's responsibility to Native Americans.

We request stakeholders submit any comments and edits to the discussion draft no later than February 1, 2024. Responses will be kept internal and will not be posted publicly. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Lucy Hulet with Senator Moran at (202) 224-6521, or Sarah Ferrell with Representative Mann at (202) 225-2715. Please submit feedback to feedback@moran.senate.gov or to the following mailing addresses no later than February 1st, 2025.

Representative Tracey Mann
344 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Jerry Moran
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sincerely,

Jerry Moran



United States Senator

Tracey Mann



Member of Congress

RESOLUTION OF THE FOUR TRIBES IN KANSAS

**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-003

A Joint Resolution Supporting the Introduction of Legislation Authorizing the State Historical Society to Convey Certain Real Property located in Johnson County to the Shawnee Tribe

WHEREAS: Each of the four abovenamed Indian Tribes in Kansas (the “Four Tribes”) are federally recognized and sovereign Indian Tribes and maintain a government to government relationship with the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes are each organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat.378); and

WHEREAS: The four federally recognized Tribes of Kansas met on January 29, 2025 to discuss and approve the Four Tribes’ support for the introduction of legislation in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A authorizing the State Historical Society to Convey Certain Real Property located in Johnson County to the Shawnee Tribe on the terms and conditions stated in Exhibit A; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Four Tribes having reservations in the State of Kansas do hereby approve a joint resolution supporting the introduction of legislation in the Kansas Legislature, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, which would authorize the State Historical Society to Convey Certain Real Property located in Johnson County to the Shawnee Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

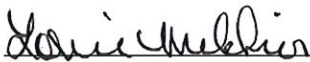
The foregoing Four Tribes Resolution was considered at their meeting on the 29th day of January 2025, at which all of them were present, and it has been duly approved by an authorized representative of each of the Four Kansas Tribes.

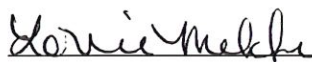
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the
Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas


Timothy Rhodd, Chairman


Gail Cheatham, Chairperson

Attest: 

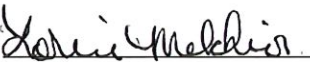
Attest: 

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Sac and Fox Nation
of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska


Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Chairman


Tiauna Carnes, Chairperson

Attest: 

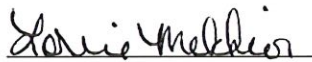
Attest: 

EXHIBIT A

AN ACT concerning the disposition of certain state real property; authorizing the state historical society to convey certain real property located in Johnson county to the Shawnee Tribe; imposing certain conditions; prescribing costs of conveyance.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the state historical society, for and on behalf of the state of Kansas, shall convey to the Shawnee Tribe all of the rights, title and interest in the following described real estate, and any improvements thereon, located in Johnson county, Kansas, containing 11.97 acres more or less:

A part of the Southwest quarter of Section 3 Township 12 Range 25, Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, then North 475.4 feet then East 472.85 feet, then Southeasterly 1024.37 feet, the West 548.27 feet, then North 545.5 feet to the point of beginning, approximately 11.97 acres.

(b) Conveyance of such rights, title and interest in such real estate, and any improvements thereon, shall be executed in the name of the state historical society by the executive director of the state historical society by quitclaim deed without the necessity of appraisal, bid or publication and shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3043a, and amendments thereto. No exchange and conveyance of real estate, and any improvements thereon, as authorized by this section shall be made by the executive director until the deeds and conveyances have been reviewed and approved by the attorney general. Such deeds and conveyances shall contain restrictive covenants prohibiting any gaming or gambling activities in and on the land and improvements described in subsection (a).

(c) The Shawnee Tribe agrees to pay all costs related to the conveyance and shall grant the state a historic preservation easement that will reflect current federal preservation laws regarding properties listed as national historic landmarks. The Shawnee Tribe further agrees that such land described in subsection (a) and any land adjacent to or near such land shall not be used as a casino or other gaming facility.

(d) The Shawnee Tribe will engage in formal consultation with the four federally recognized tribes described in K.S.A. 22-2401a(j)(5) and any other federally recognized tribe that had children that attended the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School concerning rehabilitation of the land and structures described in subsection (a) and representation of the stories of the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor School.

(e) The Shawnee Tribe shall provide an update on its work to rehabilitate and manage the property described in subsection (a) and its consultation efforts every two years for ten years to the joint committee on state-tribal relations.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

HOUSE BILL No. 2208

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

1-30

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of certain state real property;
2 authorizing the state historical society to convey certain real property
3 located in Johnson county to the Shawnee Tribe; imposing certain
4 conditions; prescribing costs of conveyance.
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the state
8 historical society, for and on behalf of the state of Kansas, shall
9 convey to the Shawnee Tribe all of the rights, title and
10 interest in the following described real estate, and any improvements
11 thereon, located in Johnson county, Kansas, containing 11.97 acres more
12 or less:

13 A part of the Southwest quarter of Section 3 Township 12 Range 25,
14 Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest
15 1/4, then North 475.4 feet then East 472.85 feet, then Southeasterly
16 1024.37 feet, the West 548.27 feet, then North 545.5 feet to the point of
17 beginning, approximately 11.97 acres.

18 (b) Conveyance of such rights, title and interest in such real estate,
19 and any improvements thereon, shall be executed in the name of the state
20 historical society by the executive director of the state historical society by
21 quitclaim deed without the necessity of appraisal, bid or publication and
22 shall not be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3043a, and amendments
23 thereto. No exchange and conveyance of real estate, and any
24 improvements thereon, as authorized by this section shall be made by the
25 executive director until the deeds and conveyances have been reviewed
26 and approved by the attorney general. Such deeds and conveyances shall
27 contain restrictive covenants prohibiting any gaming or gambling activities in
28 and on the land and improvements described in subsection (a).

29 (c) The Shawnee Tribe agrees to pay all costs related to the
30 conveyance and shall grant the state a historic preservation easement that
31 will reflect current federal preservation laws regarding properties listed as
national historic landmarks. The Shawnee Tribe further agrees that such
land described in subsection (a) and any land adjacent to or near such land
shall not be used as a casino or other gaming facility.

(d) The Shawnee Tribe will engage in formal consultation with the four
federally recognized tribes described in K.S.A. 22-2401a(j)(5) and any other
federally recognized tribe that had children that attended the Shawnee Indian
Manual Labor School concerning rehabilitation of the land and structures
described in subsection (a) and representation of the stories of the Shawnee
Indian Manual Labor School.

(e) The Shawnee Tribe shall provide an update on its work to rehabilitate and manage the property described in subsection (a) and its consultation efforts every two years for ten years to the joint committee on state-tribal relations.

32 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
33 publication in the statute book.

RESOLUTION OF THE FOUR TRIBES IN KANSAS
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska

RESOLUTION No. 2025-002

A Joint Resolution Approving the Four Tribes' Proclamation to Secure Water Rights

WHEREAS: Each of the four abovenamed Indian Tribes in Kansas (the "Four Tribes") are federally recognized and sovereign Indian Tribes and maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes are each organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat.378); and

WHEREAS: The four federally recognized Tribes of Kansas met on January 29, 2025, to discuss and approve the Four Tribes' proclamation to collaborate in drafting a water plan that will secure each Tribe's water rights and sustain available water resources for the benefit of tribal citizens and their future generations; and

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes, individually and collectively, have for generations suffered from the lack of adequate clean water to meet basic needs and natural water resources have been polluted and diverted for uses not consistent with traditional Tribal practices; and

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes joint proclamation challenges these deficiencies by agreeing to seek meaningful consultation with the State of Kansas in development of state-wide water policy and implementation of the Kansas Water Plan and engage appropriate Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS: The Four Tribes having reservations in the State of Kansas, by this proclamation call upon Governor Laura Kelly and the various state agencies to immediately begin consultation with the Four Tribes on Kansas water policy and its impact on the Four Tribes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Four Tribes do hereby approve a joint resolution affirming their commitment of collaboration to secure Tribal water rights through engagement with Federal and State agencies.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Four Tribes do hereby commit to developing a joint Tribal water plan.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Four Tribes shall seek appointment of Tribal Representatives to membership on each of the two Regional Advisory Committees where the Four Tribes are located

(Kansas Region and Missouri Region) which advise the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority, as well as appointment of a Tribal Representative to membership on the Kansas Water Authority.


CERTIFICATION

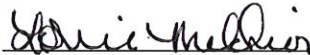
The foregoing Four Tribes Resolution was considered at their meeting on the 29th day of January 2025, at which all of them were present, and it has been duly approved by an authorized representative of each of the Four Kansas Tribes.

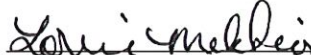
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the
Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas


Timothy Rhodd, Chairman


Gail Cheatham, Chairperson


Attest: 

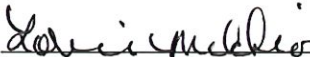
Attest: 

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Sac and Fox Nation
of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska


Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick, Chairman


Tiauna Carnes, Chairperson

Attest: 

Attest: 