



UNITED INDIAN NATIONS OF OKLAHOMA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02

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A Resolution in Support of a *Carcieri* Fix for all Tribal Nations—not *one*—and, in Support of the Inherent Right of all Removed Tribal Nations to Protect their Sacred Sites in their Homelands.

WHEREAS, the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma (UINO) is an organization established to protect the inherent sovereignty and self-determination of all Tribal Nations based in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, UINO seeks to safeguard the laws and treaties that benefit Tribal Nations and tribal citizens and to help improve government-to-government relations among Tribal Nations in Oklahoma and the United States; and

WHEREAS, UINO strives to protect the ceremonial, cultural, religious rights and access and usage of sacred sites of its member Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of the member Tribal Nations in UINO were forcibly and violently removed from their historic homelands; and

WHEREAS, because so many of UINO's member Tribal Nations were removed from their homelands, UINO commands a unique understanding of the importance of protecting the right of removed Tribal Nations to protect their sacred sites in the homelands from which they were removed; and

WHEREAS, UINO understands the role the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* has played in preventing numerous Tribal Nations from fully exercising tribal sovereignty and engaging in economic development to sustain tribal self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the passage of single-Tribe legislation to address *Carcieri* will inevitably diminish the political will to achieve additional *Carcieri* fixes, and will set a precedent that will require every affected Tribe to seek to address *Carcieri* through individual legislation, including those without the resources to do so; and

WHEREAS, UINO believes that if any legislative fix to *Carcieri* is to be passed, it must be for the benefit of all Tribal Nations—not just one; and

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WHEREAS, although gaming is a critical component of tribal self-determination, there is no need for any Tribal Nation to engage in gaming on another Tribal Nation's burial ground; and

WHEREAS a federally recognized tribe obtained ownership of another tribe's sacred burial site and violated a written promise to preserve and protect this site by removing and storing ancestral remains in boxes on shelves to make way for construction of a casino; and

WHEREAS, if any Tribe were to be rewarded in such an exclusive manner, it should not be the Tribe whose course of conduct violates some of the most fundamentally basic moral codes understood by sister tribes throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, passing any legislation that does not address these injustices will condone and incentivize more such desecrations; and

WHEREAS, the desecration of Hickory Ground in Wetumpka, Alabama, serves to demonstrate why any proposed *Carcieri* fix legislation must include protections for sacred sites located within the historical homelands of removed Tribal Nations; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UINO declares that any proposed legislation seeking to address *Carcieri* must provide removed Tribal Nations with the ability and authority to protect their sacred sites and the burials of their relatives within their homelands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UINO opposes H.R. 6180 and S. 3263.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that UINO calls on Congress to pass legislation that provides a *Carcieri* fix for *all* Tribal Nations, not one.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma membership in Miami, Oklahoma, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024, with a quorum present.

Chief Ben Barnes, Chairman

Chief David Hill, Secretary

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