

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

DATE

NAME OF MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

XXX House Office Building

Washington, DC 200XX

Dear Representative NAME:

As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a constituent of your district, I write to you today urge your support for Cherokee Nation exercising its treaty right to a Delegate to Congress. As the largest federally recognized Indian tribe in the United States, with more than 385,000 citizens across the country and spanning more than 7,000 miles across northeastern Oklahoma, Congress has a legal and moral responsibility to uphold treaties between the United States and the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee Nation's right to a delegate in the House of Representatives is affirmed by all three of the Nation's treaties: the 1785 Treaty of Hopewell, the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, and the Treaty of 1866. Most expressly, the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, our removal treaty, states that:

*The Cherokee nation having already made great progress in civilization and deeming it important that every proper and laudable inducement should be offered to their people to improve their condition as well as to guard and secure in the most effectual manner the rights guaranteed to them in this treaty, and with a view to illustrate the liberal and enlarged policy of the Government of the United States towards the Indians in their removal beyond the territorial limits of the States, it is stipulated that they shall be entitled to a delegate in the House of Representatives of the United States whenever Congress shall make provision for the same.*

Cherokee Nation's Treaty of 1866 expressly reaffirmed all previous treaties between the Cherokee Nation and the federal government, leaving the entitlement to a delegate undisturbed.

Last fall, in one of his first major acts as the duly elected leader of the Cherokee Nation and as specified in the Cherokee Nation Constitution, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. appointed Kimberly Teehee to serve the Cherokee Nation's first Delegate to Congress. She was unanimously confirmed by the Council of the Cherokee Nation. Since that time, Cherokee Nation has worked diligently with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to urge support for its treaty right and to encourage the House to seat its Delegate.

Now, it is time for Congress to seat our Delegate. I ask that you support the Cherokee Nation exercising its treaty right to a Delegate to Congress, and I urge Congress to move to seat Kimberly Teehee as Cherokee Nation's Delegate. Thank you for your ongoing support for Indian Country.

Sincerely,

NAME