

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 5

By: Haney of the Senate

and

Matlock of the House

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Congress and the United States Department of the Interior to not regionalize the Bureau of Indian Affairs Offices; outlining acceptable procedures should regionalization occur; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the South Central Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), part of the United States Department of the Interior, contains the largest service population of any other region: 278,600, representing 23.5 percent of the total Indian population nationwide. Of the above figure, 272,200 live in the State of Oklahoma, the largest concentration within the South Central Region; and

WHEREAS, the total land base in this region is 2,592,695 acres. This includes 110,000 individual land allotments in Oklahoma. The land in the South Central Region requires more management per acre due to allotments, fractionization and subsurface leases unique to the region; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma contains the largest concentration of individual Indians and tribal governments in the South Central Region. A regional office located in Oklahoma would be centralized for all states that would be included in this region; and

WHEREAS, the States of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana and Missouri have been included in the South Central Regional Office due to the

interrelationships between the tribes of these states with Oklahoma and Texas tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is already underfunded in relation to meeting the obligations to the Indian people. Any further reduction would severely impair the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the tribal government's ability to operate effectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature does not advocate regionalizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Offices.

THAT should regionalization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Offices occur, the Oklahoma State Legislature supports: the South Central Regional Office being located in Oklahoma; the tribes designing the structure of the South Central Regional Office; implementing the regionalization of the South Central Regional Office according to a timetable determined jointly by the tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; keeping the savings resulting from consolidation of the Anadarko and Muskogee Area Offices at the tribe/agency level of the tribes of the South Central Region; exempting the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget from any federal budget cuts with savings from administrative reduction kept at the tribal/agency level and not utilized to reduce the federal deficit; incorporating meaningful tribal participation in the budgetary process of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Bureau of Indian Affairs developing their budget requests around tribal needs and perspectives, not the other way around; moving line authority in the South Central Region to the tribe/agency level; involving the tribes in the selection of key personnel at the Bureau of Indian Affairs regional and agency levels; and the tribes having continuous participation to ensure that tribal perspectives are incorporated into actions that affect the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the state's Congressional Delegation and the United States Department of the Interior.

Adopted by the Senate the 8th day of February, 1995.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
1995.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives