STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1008 By: Scott of the House

and

Fields of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution supporting the development and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail.

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear was a Chief of the Ponca Tribe, which was relocated by the federal government from Nebraska to Indian Territory in 1877 and relocated again within Indian Territory to a site near present-day Ponca City in 1878; and

WHEREAS, the hardship of travel and harsh conditions that befell the Ponca Tribe upon arrival in Indian Territory caused illness and death to many, including the son of Chief Standing Bear; and

WHEREAS, having promised to bury his son in the Niobrara River Valley homeland of the Ponca Tribe, Chief Standing Bear and 30 members of the Ponca Tribe traveled to Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, soon after their arrival the Ponca were arrested for having left the reservation in Indian Territory; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, Chief Standing Bear sued for a writ of habeas corpus in the U.S. District Court in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, at the trial, Chief Standing Bear spoke these famous words: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both."; and

WHEREAS, in the case, styled as *United States ex rel. Standing Bear v. Crook*, Judge Elmer S. Dundy ruled in 1879 that an "Indian is a person" within the meaning of the laws of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the case was a landmark case in that it recognized that an Indian is a person under the law; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Chief Standing Bear is well-recognized in Oklahoma as is evidenced by the Standing Bear Park located in Ponca City, Oklahoma, which is dedicated to the memory of Chief Standing Bear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT in further recognition of the important role of Chief Standing Bear in American history, the State of Oklahoma supports the development and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail that will extend from Nebraska to Oklahoma.

55-1-7453 SD 04/23/15