

RESOLUTION

Polk County Higher Education & Technology Foundation

IN SUPPORT OF THE ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in Polk County, Texas and is committed to supporting the economic development and creation of jobs within Polk and neighboring counties of Deep East Texas; and

WHEREAS, through the creation of Naskila Gaming, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas has created over 560 new jobs in Deep East Texas and is the third largest employer in the region, and is responsible for injecting nearly \$140 million annually into our regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a great asset to our region and a wonderful neighbor and friend to all of Texas. When Hurricane Harvey devastated our state, they were among the first to step up and provide emergency financial assistance to victims throughout Deep East Texas and many other hard-hit areas; and

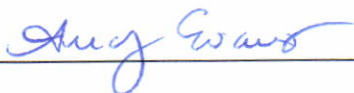
WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas supports the youth of Deep East Texas and provided 46 fully paid collegiate scholarships for graduating high school students in 2018, and

WHEREAS, THE Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas deserves to be treated equally and fairly and enjoy the same opportunities as other federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, federal statutes conflict regarding the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to offer Class II electronic bingo on their tribal lands pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a right enjoyed and exercised by the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas since 1996, and Representative Brian Babin has filed legislation to clarify the conflicting federal statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Polk County Higher Education & Technology Foundation hereby states its support for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas in the effort to clarify that the Tribe can enjoy the opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and to protect jobs.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Polk County Higher Education and Technology Foundation on the 8th day of May, 2019.



Andy Evans, President