HLS 97-3386 **ENGROSSED**

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137 (Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 by Representative John Smith)

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SMITH

INDIAN AFFAIRS. Recognizes Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, as an Indian tribe and memorializes the Congress of the United States to do the same

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To recognize the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, as an
3	Indian tribe and to memorialize the Congress of the United States to do
4	the same.
5	WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced many Indians
6	living east of the Mississippi River to sell their land and move to less fertile
7	lands on a Western reservation; and
8	WHEREAS, the five tribes most affected by the Indian Removal Act
9	of 1830 were the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, and Cherokee; and
10	WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 caused Southern Indians
11	to embark on what came to be known as "The Trail of Tears" from 1830 until
12	1842; and
13	WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, many small
14	groups of the five tribes escaped and crossed the Mississippi River into
15	Louisiana and settled near the central and western part of Louisiana in
16	Rapides, Vernon, and Natchitoches Parishes, much of what was known at one
17	time as "No Man's Land"; and

1	WHEREAS, today there exists the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana
2	Cherokee Confederacy, a domestic nonprofit corporation, registered with the
3	secretary of state of Louisiana; and
4	WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state of Louisiana to recognize the
5	Indian tribes within the borders of the state, to support their aspirations for the
6	preservation of their cultural heritage and the improvement of their economic
7	conditions, and to assist them in their just rights.
8	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana
9	formally recognizes the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy.
10	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States
11	and the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized,
12	requested, and urged to take such steps as are necessary to effect, in the near
13	future, formal recognition of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee
14	Confederacy, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Four Winds Tribe,
15	Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, are no less, if not indeed greater, than those
16	of other Indian tribes in the United States, and, therefore, to take such
17	executive or congressional action as may be appropriate.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be
19	transmitted to the president of the United States, the presiding officers of the
20	Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States,
21	each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the director of the
22	Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior.

HLS 97-3386 H.C.R. NO. 137

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitues no part of the legislative instrument.

John Smith HCR No. 137

Provides that the Legislature of Louisiana formally recognize the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy.

Memorializes congress to take necessary steps to effect formal recognition of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Four Winds Tribe, Louisiana Cherokee Confederacy are no less, if not greater, than other Indian tribes in the United States.