

Senate Resolution 493

By: Senator Bulloch of the 11th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting federal recognition of the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia are descendants of and  
4 political successors to those Indians known as the Original Creek Indian Nation who were  
5 present at the time of initial European contact with America; and

6 WHEREAS, the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia are descendants and  
7 political successors to the signatories of the 1832 Treaty of Washington which was a treaty  
8 made while the Creeks were one nation, and involved all Creeks, including the Upper,  
9 Middle, and Lower Creeks, when the Creek Nation was whole and intact; and

10 WHEREAS, the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia consists of over 2,500  
11 eligible members, most of whom continue to reside close to their ancestral homeland within  
12 the State of Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XII of the 1832 Treaty of Washington, the Lower Muskogee  
14 Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia declined to be removed and continued to operate as a  
15 sovereign Indian Tribe comprising those Lower Creeks declining removal under the Treaty  
16 of 1832; and

17 WHEREAS, the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia continues its political and  
18 social existence with a viable tribal government carrying out many of its governmental  
19 functions through its traditional form of collective decision-making and social interaction;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in 1972, when the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia petitioned  
22 the Bureau of Indian Affairs for federal recognition, the tribal leaders were not well educated

23 and the Tribe could not afford competent counsel adequately versed in federal Indian law;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Tribe was unable to obtain technical assistance in its petition which  
26 consequently lacked critical and pertinent historical information necessary for recognition  
27 and due to these technical omissions, the Tribe's petition was denied on December 21, 1981;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, despite the denial of the petition, the United States Government, the  
30 government of the State of Georgia, and local governments, have recognized the political  
31 leaders of the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia as leaders of a distinct  
32 political governmental entity; and

33 WHEREAS, the members of this body respect and agree with the wishes of the Lower  
34 Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia that gaming in Indian country within the State of  
35 Georgia be prohibited unless two-thirds of each chamber of the Georgia General Assembly  
36 expressly approve by resolution.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
38 recognize the political leaders and decisions of the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of  
39 Georgia, support the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe of Georgia's request for federal  
40 recognition, and agree with the Tribe that gaming on Indian lands within this state requires  
41 the passage of a two-thirds' vote by both chambers of the Georgia General Assembly.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
43 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Lower Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe  
44 of Georgia.