

House Resolution 739

By: Representative Maddox of the 172nd

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 such changes as may be necessary in the Constitution and laws
36 of this state are made and comply with federal law.

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

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Lower Muskogee Creek
45 Indian Tribe of Georgia.