

1 HJR78  
2 210460-1  
3 By Representatives Hanes, Whorton, Mooney and Ledbetter  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 25-FEB-21

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8 URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE  
9 CHEROKEE NATION OF ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, on February 16, 1999, the Cherokee Nation  
12 of Alabama petitioned the United States Department of the  
13 Interior for recognition as an American Indian tribe; and

14 WHEREAS, the Cherokee peoples of southern Appalachia  
15 resided in the foothills of what is now northeast Alabama in  
16 present-day Madison, Jackson, Marshall, DeKalb, Colbert,  
17 Cherokee, and Etowah Counties; and

18 WHEREAS, the Cherokee peoples in Alabama have  
19 significantly contributed to the shaping of this state's  
20 history; over two hundred years ago, the Cherokee were the  
21 greatest Native American allies of the United States as they  
22 fought in the Creek War of 1813-14; and

23 WHEREAS, although many members of the Cherokee  
24 Nation were removed from the state by the federal government  
25 during the time of the Trail of Tears, some remained in the  
26 beautiful lands they also called home; many Alabamians thus  
27 claim Cherokee ancestry, and every Alabamian has observed the

1 legacy of the Cherokee as reflected in the names of our  
2 cities, our waterfalls, our mountains, and our own fellow  
3 residents; and

4 WHEREAS, the history of this great state is  
5 inseverable from the history of the proud and ancient peoples  
6 who walked these lands before us and among us; in honor of  
7 this shared history, we feel compelled to support the claim of  
8 the Cherokee Nation of Alabama as a true American Indian  
9 tribe; now therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body urges the federal  
12 government to officially recognize the Cherokee Nation of  
13 Alabama as an American Indian tribe.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
15 resolution be delivered to the Office of the Solicitor and the  
16 Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Federal Acknowledgment  
17 within the United States Department of the Interior.