

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

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**And:**

**The Honorable Members of the Congressional Black Caucus**

We the undersigned, the Creek Freedmen Descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Indians wish to bring a serious issue to your attention.

First let me give you a brief history of who we are; The Creek Freedmen were former ***African*** slaves of the ***Creek Nation of Indians***, one of the Five Civilized Tribes. After several hundred years of slavery our ancestors were emancipated at the end of the Civil War and by a new treaty signed June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1866 between the United States and the Creek Nation of Indians; the slaves were adopted as tribal members with full rights of Indians. The former slaves flourished after the war becoming leaders in both the elected houses of the Creek government. The US government recognized the freedmen as citizens of the Creek Nation for over one hundred years.

The ***Muscogee (Creek) Nation*** in 1979 reorganized the government and constitution by using the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936. The racist members of the tribe used this stature to remove its Freedmen descendants. It was ethnic cleansing in its purest meaning.

The Creeks by blood claimed that the Freedmen don't have Indian blood, however most do, but it's hardly the issue when *our ancestors didn't need Indian blood when they were **purchased** on the slave auction blocks*. For more than 30 years, the Creek Freedmen have pleaded with the leadership of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to do the right thing and return the tribe back to God's grace, but our cries have fallen on deaf ears. We realized after trying this issue before the **Muscogee Nation Supreme Court, *with no satisfaction of justice***, that the Creeks are blinded by their hatred of black people, revealed by their blatant racism. We have now taken our claim to Washington before members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other members of Congress who will listen and understand our suffering. Our citizenship was based on the same citizenship theory of enslaved Africans who received American citizenship after the emancipation. The Creek slaves received Creek citizenship because they were not owned by Americans, *they were the property of Creek nationals*, therefore their freedom, and citizenship was of the nation they served.

The Creek Freedmen Descendants say to you, what if the Governor of Mississippi calls for a vote of the people to **de-nationalize** every black person who does not have a drop of white blood from his state. This is exactly what happened to the Creek Freedmen, the descendants of the former slaves of the Creek Nation of Indians.

No more will we wear the badges of slavery. The Creek Freedmen descendants have vowed to fight for their citizenship and equal rights as members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We ask you to help us by forcing the 'treaty promise' made to former African slaves of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

In article 2 of the Creek Treaty of June 14, 1866, it is provided that---

Inasmuch as there are among the Creeks many persons of African descent who have no interest in the soil, it is stipulated that hereafter these persons lawfully residing in said Creek country under their laws and usages, or who have been thus residing in said country and may return in one year from the ratification of this treaty, and their descendants and such others of the same race as may be permitted by the laws of the said nation to settle within the limits of the jurisdiction of the Creek Nation as citizens thereof, *shall have and enjoy all the rights and privileges of native citizens, including and equal interest* in the soil and national funds.

For more detail accounts of our stories please visit our web site at:  
<http://www.thecreekfreedmen.com/>

We ask for your help.

Congressman Dan Boren has recently offered a bill (**H.R. 3570**), known as the **Fountainhead Property Land Transfer Act** to take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and for other purposes. We believe to open a new casino on the property.

**We urge you to vote to against this bill or add an amendment to H.R. 3570 that requires the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to abide by its 1866 treaty promises to the Creek freedmen and their descendants, full citizenship.**

**Please help us end this nightmare.**

Sincerely,

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**Signatures,**

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## **Fountainhead Property Land Transfer Act (Introduced in House)**

HR 3570 IH

110th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
**H. R. 3570**

To take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and for other purposes.

### **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**September 18, 2007**

Mr. BOREN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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#### **A BILL**

To take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the 'Fountainhead Property Land Transfer Act'.

#### **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND; LAND INTO TRUST.**

(a) In General- Administrative jurisdiction of the Property is hereby transferred to the Secretary of the Interior. Upon receipt of consideration and costs required under subsection (d) and satisfaction of all terms specified by the Secretary under subsection (e), the Secretary shall take the Property into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

(b) Description- The Property is the approximately 18 acres of Federal land located in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, within the boundary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and located in Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 10 North, Range 16 East, McIntosh County, Oklahoma, at Lake Eufaula.

(c) Survey- The exact acreage and legal description of the Property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be paid by the Tribe.

(d) Consideration; Costs- The Tribe shall pay to the Secretary fair market value of the Property, as determined by the Secretary. All costs and administrative expenses associated with the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of the Property and taking the Property into trust pursuant to subsection (a), including costs of any environmental remediation, shall be paid by the Tribe.

(e) Other Terms and Conditions- The transfer of administrative jurisdiction of the Property and taking the Property into trust shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, including reservation of flowage easements consistent with the Acquisition Guide Line for Flowage Easement for the Lake Eufaula project and other applicable policies for that project.

(f) Definitions- For the purposes of this section:

(1) PROPERTY- The term `Property' means the Federal land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARY- The term `Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBE- The term `Tribe' means the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.