

**RESOLUTION
OPPOSING ABUSE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ACT**

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County (NC) Board of Commissioners met in a meeting on February 17, 2025 at 1830 hours in the Cherokee County (NC) court house, Murphy, NC; and,

WHEREAS, the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate are exercised by its Board of County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, under the 1906 Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, presidents can unilaterally designate national monuments, by administrative fiat, without any input or involvement of the American public, community leaders, or elected officials; and,

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act was enacted before the creation of federal land management laws, and was intended to be used in emergency situations to protect historic artifacts, and sites of scientific value, from "imminent threat"; and,

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act section §320301(b) states, "*The limits of the parcels shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected*"; and,

WHEREAS, since its establishment 118 years ago, the Antiquities Act has been misused for political purposes by presidents with large scale designations intended to limit specific uses, activities, or access to vast areas of public lands; allowing unfettered governmental control and hindering the productive use of those lands; and,

WHEREAS, monument designations appear to be nothing more than another attempt at federal land grabs driven by political motivation, outside interests; and,

WHEREAS, creating additional federal lands and placing public lands into permanent conservation status causes dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states; and,

WHEREAS, many businesses and citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the oil and gas industry, livestock grazing, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation; and,

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the National economy and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Cherokee County, North Carolina, that:

1. Cherokee County (NC) Board of Commissioners opposes the designation of lands, whether private lands or government lands as national monuments, wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands; and,
2. Cherokee County (NC) Board of Commissioners calls on Congress to repeal the Preservation of American Antiquities Act or at a minimum remove the unilateral Presidential discretion for designation and require that designation proposals have the approval of affected local governments; and,
3. Cherokee County (NC) Board of Commissioners calls on Congress, if it doesn't repeal the American Antiquities Act, to require that, in addition to the specific area containing the antiquity or monument to be protected, the designation contain justification for every additional acre of land taken as it relates to the "proper care and management of the objects to be protected" as required by the statute; and,
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing Cherokee County (NC) Board of Commissioners requests that any legislation adopted by Congress will continue to authorize the President, by executive order, to decommission lands as national monuments if the decommissioning has the approval of affected local government.

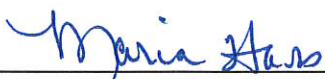
This resolution was revised and written by Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman, Cherokee County Board of Commissioners based on a similar resolution originally adopted by Catron County, New Mexico, Board of Commissioners on January 8, 2025

This is the 17th day of February 2025.



Dr. Dan Eichenbaum
Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Maria Hass
Clerk to the Board