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**CHEROKEE NATION®**

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**Chuck Hoskin Jr.**  
*Principal Chief*  
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**Bryan Warner**  
*Deputy Principal Chief*  
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January 30, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker McCarthy and Leader Jeffries:

In 1835, the Cherokee Nation and the U.S. Government entered into the Treaty of New Echota, an agreement between two nations that was signed into law by President Andrew Jackson and ratified by the U.S. Senate. The Treaty of New Echota stipulates that, in exchange for giving up our ancestral homelands in the southeast United States, the Cherokee Nation will be entitled to a non-voting delegate seat in the U.S. House. Treaties have the force of federal legislation and are part of what the Constitution calls “the supreme Law of the Land [Article VI, Clause 2].”

Our ancestors upheld their end of the bargain – after being forced to leave their homes and march to the west, a quarter of our tribe (4,000 men, women, and children) died on what history knows today as the Trail of Tears. Yet, nearly two centuries later, the U.S. House still has yet to seat the delegate we were promised. As Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I write to draw your attention to this critical issue and to urge you to seat the Cherokee Nation’s delegate as soon as possible.

Last November, the House Rules Committee held a historic hearing on this issue, with members of both parties expressing their support for this effort. As they know, seating the Cherokee Nation Delegate is not a Republican issue or a Democratic issue. It is a question of whether the United States will live up to the promises it has made throughout history. With our country so divided today, it is critical that Democrats and Republicans in Congress work together whenever possible to deliver results for the people they serve. Seating the Cherokee Nation Delegate is one such issue where Republicans and Democrats can work together.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Hoskin, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.  
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation