

1919-2019

100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

the CHAMBER
LUFKIN | ANGELINA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in Polk County, Texas and is committed to supporting the economic development and creation of jobs within Polk and surrounding counties of Deep East Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' Naskila electronic bingo facility, has created over 560 new jobs in Deep East Texas and is the third largest employer in the region, and is responsible for injecting nearly \$140 million annually in revenue to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas provided over 46 fully paid collegiate scholarships for graduating high school students of the Tribe in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas being a good community partner, contributed \$500,000 in donations after Hurricane Harvey to several counties, and purchased 30 manufactured home units; and

WHEREAS, United States Congressman Brian Babin (R-Woodville) has filed H.R. 759 to clarify conflicting federal statutes regarding the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to offer Class II electronic bingo on their tribal lands pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, a right enjoyed and exercised by the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas since 1996; and

WHEREAS, the passage of H.R. 759 is vital to continued economic development and health of both the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and all Deep East Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lufkin/ Angelina County Chamber of Commerce hereby joins the Alabama- Coushatta Tribe of Texas in support of its effort for passage of H.R. 759 to clarify that the Tribe can enjoy the opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal and fair, and to protect jobs. **FURTHER**, the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce urgently requests that United States Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz of Texas, as well as the other 35 Texans elected to the United States House of Representatives, join Congressman Babin in securing the enactment of H.R. 759 into law.

Zara Watson-Watkins

President/CEO
Lufkin/ Angelina County Chamber of Commerce