

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 171

Introduced by Dubas, 34.

WHEREAS, from his birth on the banks of the Niobrara River in Nebraska until his death in 1908, Chief Standing Bear spent his life in a constant struggle to gain equality and justice for our nation's Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe were forced in 1877 by federal treaty to leave their homeland in Nebraska for Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the hardship of travel, illness, and the conditions of Indian Territory caused many members of the tribe to perish, including Chief Standing Bear's son; and

WHEREAS, determined to bury his son in his homeland, Chief Standing Bear led thirty members of his tribe back to their home in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear became the first Native American to be recognized as a person in a federal court decision rendered in Omaha at the trial following his return to Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness of historical events in the lives of the original Native American inhabitants of Nebraska to promote justice and equality in the United States legal system; and

WHEREAS, a Chief Standing Bear Trail, spanning from Chief Standing Bear's homeland in Nebraska through Kansas and into Oklahoma, would increase knowledge and awareness of the story of Chief Standing Bear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature supports the development and designation of a continuous Chief Standing Bear Trail from Nebraska to Oklahoma and recognizes that the story of Nebraska's original Native American inhabitants is vital to understanding the rich history of Nebraska and promoting the cultural well-being of all Nebraskans.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Commission on Indian Affairs.