

Bill No 58 To the Chairman of the
Committee on Indian Affairs:

The General Council of the Choctaw
Nation Assembled.

Most earnestly protest against the
proposed legislation, as reported
to your Committee by the Senate
Sub-Committee on Indian
Affairs, as set out in the 'Curtis
Bill', for the reason:

That the manner of disposing of the Coal
and asphalt lands of the Choctaw and
Chickasaw Indians is unfair to the
owners thereof, as it gives the owners
of leases upon Coal & Asphalt lands
opportunity to purchase said leased
lands at an appraised value, to
be set by a Commission on which
the Indian and real owners of these
lands have no representative
except as appointed by the Secretary
of the Interior. Such a manner of
disposing of the property of the Indians
is not fair to them (the owners) as
they have nothing to say at all in
the matter, while the Coal Companies,
who have leases, are accorded a
full representation.

This is a most radical departure from
the policy of all foregoing laws and
treaties. The Indian is absolutely
ignored, but the Coal Company is accorded
a position of advantage.
That the provision of this bill with reference
to public highways is wrong.
This Bill proposes to lay out highways
on section lines, such expenses as may
be incurred in surveying, clerk
services records, etc. to be paid
out of the Common Fund of the
tribe. It is hardly necessary to call

attention to the gross injustice of this
provision. Not satisfied with taxing
so much of the Indians' land as may
be required for these highways
without compensation, it is proposed
that they shall be made to stand the
expense of taxing their property.

That it appears to us unfair to permit
the negro freedman to purchase, at its
appraised value, sufficient land to
increase their allotment to forty
acres in acreage.

This bill does not permit the citizens
by blood to purchase land adjacent
to their allotments but permits the
negro to do so.

~~Should~~ We think that if any one
should be permitted to purchase
the lands of the Nation at its appraised
value the same privilege should
be accorded to all citizens alike.

These and many other radically unfair
features of this proposed legislation
prompt this body, representing the
Choctaw people to most earnestly
protest against the same.

Proposed by
Turner Curridge

Approved This the 15th day of Feb 1906.

Green M. Curtain
P. C. C. N.

Attest
Simon Pualley
Recording Secretary