

## **TRIBAL LEADERS SIGN JOINT RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR STITT'S REPUDIATION OF THE STATE-TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS**



**BILL JOHN BAKER  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (July 12, 2019)**– The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) provided a unified, formal and firm response to Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt's recent repudiation of the Oklahoma Model Tribal Gaming Compact through a joint resolution signed by the leaders of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations. The Tribal leaders unanimously agreed and adopted the resolution at the Inter-Tribal Council meeting today at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, Okla.



**BILL ANOATUBBY  
GOVERNOR**

The ITC is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

Leaders of all five nations, which collectively represent more than 750,000 Native people, jointly signed the resolution outlining a clear and strong response to Governor Stitt's letter dated July 5, 2019, proposing the Tribes negotiate a new Class III gaming compact.



**GARY BATTON  
CHIEF**

Tribal leaders expressed their disappointment in the action by Gov. Stitt to take a matter of such great importance to the media before engaging in respectful and purposeful conversations given the complexity of the compacts and the law. The ITC memorialized through the joint resolution their collective intent to reject the state's attempt to unlawfully and unilaterally terminate the compact.



**JAMES R. FLOYD  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF**

The gaming industry has become a significant driver of Oklahoma's economy, employing over 55,000 Oklahomans, primarily in rural areas, and paying more than \$1.5 billion in exclusivity fees over the past 15 years, mostly for public education. In response to the exclusive fee arrangement outlined in the compacts, Tribes have invested hundreds of millions of those dollars into education, roads, health care, public safety, and tourism to support the betterment of our state for the benefit of all residents. The tribes' investments have allowed the state to channel tax revenue to other high priority needs.



**GREG P. CHILCOAT  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF**

During Friday's general session of the ITC, the tribal leaders detailed the extensive legal history and complexity surrounding gaming compacts and highlighted the current compact, which was approved by Oklahoma voters on November 4, 2004, and approved by the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

The tribes also detailed their concerns that Gov. Stitt made no proposal of any terms, nor presented a framework, for any renegotiation. That noted, the ITC pledged their support for the continuation of the exclusive fee structure and amounts outlined in the current compact. They underscored their confidence in the legal reality that the compact does not expire, but in fact renews on January 1, 2020.

Joint Statement from the Five Tribal Leaders:

“We have considered the state of Oklahoma a trustworthy partner through the years. Working together we have made strides in building a better, stronger and more prosperous Oklahoma for the benefit of the hundreds of thousands of members of our Tribes who live and work here as well as all residents of this great State. We can trace the starting point of our constructive partnership to the carefully crafted and balanced approach represented in the current compact negotiated in a respectful manner between the State of Oklahoma and the sovereign Tribes residing in Oklahoma. This compact represents a continuing and mutually beneficial partnership. The recent action of Governor Stitt puts into question his sincerity to work with us in a cooperative manner moving ahead. We are resolute in our position, and it is our hope Governor Stitt and his advisors will not attempt any bad faith interference on the compact which could set back the progress we have achieved by working together.”

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief, The Cherokee Nation  
Bill Anoatubby, Governor, The Chickasaw Nation  
Gary Batton, Chief, The Choctaw Nation  
James R. Floyd, Principal Chief, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Greg P. Chilcoat, Chief, The Seminole Nation

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# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution in Opposition to Governor Stitt's Attempt to Repudiate the State-Tribal Gaming Compacts*

Resolution No. 19-17



**BILL JOHN BAKER**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



**BILL ANOATUBBY**  
GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS,** the member Tribes of the ITC are all signatories to the Model Tribal Gaming Compact, the State's offered terms of which are codified at 3A.O.S. Section 281, as those terms have been approved by the Secretary of Interior and supplemented from time to time, (hereinafter the "Compact"); and



**GARY BATTON**  
CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** as to the State, the Compact was approved by a vote of the citizens of the State of Oklahoma on November 4, 2004; and

**WHEREAS,** the Chief Executive Officer for the State of Oklahoma, Governor Kevin Stitt, issued a letter dated July 5, 2019 addressed to the Tribal leaders for each of the Tribes who are members of the ITC, and others, declaring his repudiation of the Compact and proposing the Tribes negotiate a new Class III gaming compact out of whole cloth; and



**JAMES R. FLOYD**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** Governor Stitt's repudiation of the Compact, if implemented, would violate the Compact's express terms authorizing parties' rights to request renegotiation of only select provisions, i.e., subsections A and E of Part 11; and

**WHEREAS,** the five member Tribes of the ITC have expended significant capital contributions within the State of Oklahoma, most importantly in rural areas, that would otherwise be non-existent without gaming tribes in Oklahoma; and



**GREG P. CHILCOAT**  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

**WHEREAS,** Governor Stitt has made no proposal of any terms or otherwise proposed a framework for any renegotiation of terms; and

**WHEREAS,** the current Compacts, as negotiated and approved by the Secretary of Interior and upon which the State, the Tribes, and Tribal business partners have relied, represent a continuing and mutually beneficial partnership between the State and Tribes, which create competition and diversity in the Oklahoma economy, creates jobs and contributes to the wealth, health and prosperity of Oklahomans; and

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding Governor Stitt's declarations, it is the position of the Inter-Tribal Council and the Five Civilized Tribes that the Compacts will automatically renew on January 1, 2020, barring any attempted bad faith interference arising from Governor Stitt's declarations.

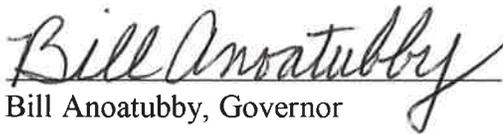
**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes do hereby memorialize our intent to reject the State's attempt to unlawfully and unilaterally terminate the Compact.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council supports the continued exclusivity fee structure and amounts outlined in the Compact.

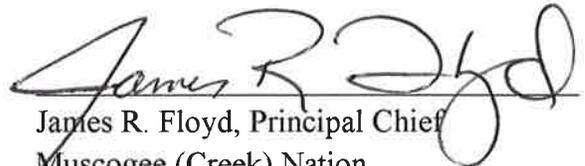
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Inter-Tribal Council rejects the State's request to negotiate an entirely new Class III compact, as the current Compact represents a carefully negotiated and balanced approach between and among the respective sovereign Tribes and the State.

## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma on this 12th day of July 2019, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ against and \_\_\_\_\_ abstentions.



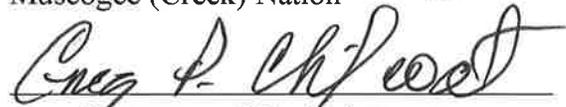
Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation



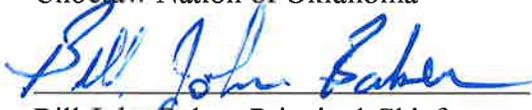
James R. Floyd, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gary Patton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



Bill John Baker, Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation