



December 20, 2019

Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association is officially transmitting this letter in response to Governor J. Kevin Stitt, on the behalf of the 32 Tribal Nations who have drafted and signed it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew L. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "M" at the beginning and end of the name.

Matthew L. Morgan, Esq.
Chairman, Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association

December 20, 2019

Office of the Governor
The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

We, the undersigned Tribal leaders, write to you to express our view on the status of the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts with our respective Tribes and Nations. We remain united in our position that the plain meaning of the Compact language “shall automatically renew” if the State takes governmental action to authorize electronic gaming at licensed racetracks on January 1, 2020, means exactly what it says.

As you know, the State, among other actions, through its Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, has taken that State action by issuing licenses to horse tracks for electronic gaming, effective January 1, 2020. There is no credible legal argument to the contrary, as your continuing failure to provide us with a written legal analysis confirms. Since the compacts, by the terms approved and offered by over 850,000 Oklahomans in 2004, automatically renew, Class III Tribal Governmental Gaming on January 1, 2020, will continue to be lawful. We will keep our promises and continue to send our exclusivity fees to the State.

We regard your threats to our vendors, who are not parties to the compacts, as inappropriate. As you know, the State has no legal authority to determine the legality of, or otherwise regulate, gaming on Indian land, including the acts of vendors in support of Tribal Governmental Gaming. Of course, Tribes are the primary regulators of those vendors. In any event, since the Compact “shall automatically renew,” on January 1, 2020, the vendors will be assisting Tribal Governmental Gaming from that day forward. We will continue to support our vendors, including against any unlawful attack by the State.

Additionally, your unfounded claim about illegal gaming is offensive to our hardworking employees, our citizens, and our numerous governmental and charitable organizations that benefit from our gaming. We are confident that those beneficiaries will continue to share, without interruption, in the fruits of our lawful governmental activity.

Finally, we are particularly concerned about your authority to offer an extension of the Compacts. The People enacted the model Compact as an act of legislation and through their legislation offered it to our Nations and Tribes. We see no participation by the Oklahoma Legislature in what is clearly an attempt to materially amend State law. We decline your unauthorized offer of an extension.

We hope that this united letter will encourage you to acknowledge the clear language used by the Oklahoma citizens who adopted the model Compact. If you agree that our Compacts automatically renew January 1, 2020, we are open to negotiate in good faith.

Chuck Hoskin Jr.

Chuck Hoskin, Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

Bill Anoatubby

Bill Anoatubby, Governor, Chickasaw Nation

Jay Batton

Gary Batton, Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

James R. Floyd

James Floyd, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Greg P. Chilcoat

Gregory Paul Chilcoat, Chief, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Edwin Butler-Wolfe

Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Governor, Absentee Shawnee Tribe

Nelson Scott Harjo

Nelson Scott Harjo, Chief, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town

Kristopher Killsfirst

Kristopher Killsfirst, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Tamar Michele Francis Fourkiller

Tamar Michele Francis Fourkiller, Chairperson,
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Reggie Wassana

Reggie Wassana, Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe

William Nelson Sr.

William Nelson Sr., Chairman, Comanche Nation

Deborah Dotson

Deborah Dotson, President, Delaware Nation

Glenna Wallace

Glenna Wallace, Chief, Eastern Shawnee Tribe

Lori Gooday Ware

Lori Gooday Ware, Chairwoman, Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Edgar B. Kent Jr.

Edgar B. Kent Jr., Chairman, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Lynn Williams

Lynn Williams, Chairwoman, Kaw Nation

David Pacheco Sr.

David Pacheco, Chairman, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Douglas Lankford

Douglas G. Lankford, Chief, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Geoffrey M. Standing Bear

Geoffrey M. Standing Bear, Principal Chief, Osage Nation

John R. Shotton

John R. Shotton, Chairman, Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians

Ethel E. Cook

Ethel E. Cook, Chief, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

James E. Whiteshirt

James E. Whiteshirt, President, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

CRAIG HARPER

Craig Harper, Chief, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

John Barrett

John Barrett, Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

John Berrey

John Berrey, Chairman, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma

Justin Wood

Justin F. Wood, Principal Chief, Sac and Fox Nation

William L. Fisher

William L. Fisher, Chief, Seneca-Cayuga Nation

Ben Barnes

Ben Barnes, Chief, Shawnee Tribe

MORROW RYAN MORROW

Ryan Morrow, Interim Town King, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

Russell Martin

Russell Martin, President, Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Terri Parton

Terri Parton, President, Wichita and Affiliate Tribes
(Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma

Billy Friend

Billy Friend, Chief, Wyandotte Nation