



December 31, 2019

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor of the State of Oklahoma
2300 No. Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 212
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

For some time, we have tried to establish meaningful intergovernmental engagement regarding our gaming compacts, but you have continued to reject our compacts' plain terms. Recently, you have gone further, stating allegations against us and threats to our operations.

We have a solemn duty to protect our Nations' legal and sovereign rights, as well as our citizens' interests. Accordingly, today we filed suit to ask the court to interpret our compacts' "shall automatically renew" clause and to hold our compacts renew, effective January 1, 2020. We filed this action to restore certainty and to ensure the stability of lawful activities that are critical both to our tribal governments' fiscal foundations and to the broader Oklahoma economy.

The dispute—like the lawsuit—is about *renewal*, not *rates*. Our compacts expressly provide both for renewal and for rate renegotiations. We have never refused to discuss rates but insisted only that any negotiations conform with our compacts' plain provisions and Federal law. Unfortunately, your ongoing dismissal of this threshold framework has made progress impossible, and your words and threatened actions leave us no reasonable alternative but to file suit. Through this suit, we will continue to seek a resolution that honors the terms of our continuing agreement, the will of the Oklahoma citizens who approved the State's compact offer to us, and the Federal law that controls our intergovernmental compacts and relations.

Once we have resolved this dispute, we are hopeful we will again work together for the benefit of all Oklahomans. Until then, we will keep our word and abide our renewing compacts.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Chuck Hoskin, Chief
Cherokee Nation

Handwritten signature of Bill Anoatubby.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation

Handwritten signature of Gary Batton.

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma