

For Media Release | Friday, May 22, 2020

Tribal Statement Concerning Filings in Cherokee Nation, et al., v. Stitt

The following statement may be attributed to legal counsel for the Tribes moving May 22, 2020, for summary judgment on the question of whether the gaming compacts renewed January 1, 2020, for a second 15-year term:

The Tribes look forward to the Court's resolution of this dispute. Since Governor Stitt abruptly pronounced his position in July last year, we have been clear and unified in our position that the conditions for automatic renewal of the compact have been satisfied. The Tribes have always been prepared to discuss revenue sharing rates and new forms of gaming with state leaders, but that must occur within the framework of the compact. Our renewed compacts continue to serve a shared Tribal-State interest in economic stability, transparency and growth.

Governor Stitt's go-it-alone approach has required us to seek a restoration of stability through the courtroom, and we look forward to bringing this action to a close. Our compacts represent a binding covenant between the State and the Tribes, and we have lived up to every word they contain. We look forward to Governor Stitt eventually joining those other State government officials who, like the Tribes, understand the importance and value of honoring the compacts.