



J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
State of Oklahoma

August 13, 2019

The Honorable Chief Gary Batton
Choctaw Nation
1802 Chukka Hina
Durant, OK 74701

Dear Chief Batton:

In the past few weeks, I have met with thirteen tribes in their communities and will continue these conversations to listen and engage in a meaningful and constructive dialogue. Gaming in Oklahoma is important, both to tribal self-sufficiency and as an economic engine in this State. More important is that the tribal Nations continue to flourish and that the State and the Nations progress in mutual respect and shared prosperity.

To that end, I am committed to working with the Tribes in a manner that respects your interests, expands your opportunities for economic advancement, and ensures that the State appropriately benefits from the legal framework that has provided the Tribes with exclusive gaming rights. I am eager to begin negotiation that refines and improves our gaming compact.

While the start of gaming in Oklahoma has been enormously successful, this does not preclude us from taking into account the developments of the last 15 years in deciding how we want to move forward. I genuinely believe in the possibility of an updated gaming compact that will inure to the benefit of both the Tribes and the State.

I am confident that if we work with diligence we can come to an agreement on the future of the gaming compact in relatively short order. Because of this confidence, I propose we table the issue of the renewal or termination date of the existing compact, and use our time more productively by focusing on coming to a shared vision of gaming in Oklahoma for the future.

I recommend, if possible and agreeable to the Tribes, that the State and Tribes begin compact discussions on September 3, 2019, or a later date that is mutually agreeable. I am designating Attorney General Mike Hunter and his office to be an active leader on behalf of the State in these discussions alongside my office. In the interest of efficiency, a designee from each chamber of the legislature is key to the success of these negotiations. The State requests that the Tribes similarly designate representatives to speak on behalf of tribal interests, understanding that any final compact between the State and any given Tribe is ultimately subject to each individual

Office Of The Chief
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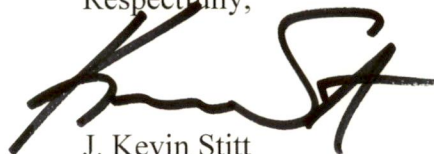
Tribe's formal approval. Please communicate with Michelle Hale at 405-522-4396 regarding your participation.

In the time between now and the beginning of any formal discussions, the State will be carefully analyzing mutual goals, the State's interests, issues for discussion, and potential paths for agreement. We encourage the Tribes to do the same as we work towards scheduling talks in September. Moreover, I believe it would be helpful to progress in these discussions if the State and the Tribes can agree to retain a mediator to facilitate the talks.

Experience has taught us the immense progress we can achieve when the State of Oklahoma and the Tribes of Oklahoma work together. I am committed to building on that legacy and invite the Tribes to engage in meaningful discussions about gaming in Oklahoma to advance our shared commercial and economic interests.

We are undeniably better and stronger together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kevin Stitt', written in a cursive style.

J. Kevin Stitt
Governor



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TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF BATTON
CHOCTAW NATION
1802 CHUKKA HINA

DURANT OK 74701

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