



J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
State of Oklahoma

January 5, 2022

Chief Gary Batton
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
1802 Chukka Hina
Durant, OK 74701

Dear Chief Batton:

As you are aware, the Choctaw Nation did not fulfill its obligation to purchase the minimum number of compact licenses, during any compact year. Article II, paragraph (2)(d) of the expired Hunting and Fishing Compact between the State of Oklahoma and the Choctaw Nation provides:

2) The Nation agrees [to]:

d. Annually purchase a minimum of fifty thousand (50,000) Licenses for its Oklahoma resident citizens who are sixteen (16) through sixty-four (64) years of age on or before June 30th of each calendar year.

Throughout the course of the compact period, the Nation fell approximately 152,967 licenses short of the guaranteed minimum. As a direct result of the Nation's breach of the compact terms, the State of Oklahoma has incurred damages in the approximate amount of \$5,127,515.57¹ (\$305,934.00 for licenses and \$4,821,581.57 in lost federal funding due to the Nation's failure to meet its obligations). A more specific breakdown is available upon request.

By this letter, I am commencing the thirty-day good faith negotiation process referenced in Article III, paragraph 1 of the compact, which also provides that the remedy for compact disputes, absent negotiated resolution, is voluntary termination of the compact or suit in federal court. Given that the compact expired on its own terms, only the latter option would remain available. The hope is

¹ Federal funding lost due to the shortfall in 2021 has not yet been calculated but will be sought from the Nation.

that, by negotiating in good faith and ultimately remitting payments owed to all Oklahomans, the Choctaw Nation lives up to your recent statement that you signed the compact to benefit all Oklahoma citizen and that the Choctaw Nation will put cooperation above conflict. I welcome an in-person meeting to further discuss resolution of this significant issue. In any event, I will await your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by 'Stitt'.

J. Kevin Stitt
Governor