



May 1, 2023

Governor Kevin Stitt,

This letter is to inform you that I will be stepping down from the position of Director at the Department of Commerce effective June 8, 2023.

It has truly been an honor to serve the citizens of Oklahoma in this role for the past 4 years. Thanks to the incredible team at the agency and the commitment of so many of our partners, I believe we have accomplished the goals I set when I began this journey. It is time for me to step aside and focus on new challenges.

The past four years have been some of the most memorable of my life. Working with our local leaders to guide our state's economy through the hardship of a worldwide pandemic and focusing our attention on our legacy companies will always be accomplishments in which I will take pride. I wanted to build bridges between the Department of Commerce and our local communities and I believe that bond is stronger now than it has ever been. You cannot build a strong economy without every community aggressively working to grow. Our communities are now equipped to grow.

Today, we have the strongest economy in state history and I attribute this success to the work done in each city and county across this state and to our Oklahoma companies who have put capital at risk to keep our citizens employed. The members of Select Oklahoma and the other partners such as the Oklahoma Business Roundtable and the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance are making a huge impact in this state and their connection to Commerce is at an all time high right now.

We have also transformed the way Commerce operates. We no longer believe that "government" creates jobs. It is our mission to create an environment where "businesses" create jobs. This transformation is continuing to occur, but I believe the impact is already being felt. The Commerce staff, specifically the Leadership Team, is the most professional group of leaders I have ever experienced and have created the most responsive agency in all of state government. There has never been even a question about the financial and legal decisions made by this team during my time at Commerce, and as long as this team stays in place, there never will be. The Department of Commerce is a well oiled machine.

And finally, I would like to thank our partners in the Legislature. They always stepped up when we asked for help and their work to make Oklahoma a pro-business state will be remembered for generations to come. Now that we have put Oklahoma on the world-wide stage, the demands on them have increased and they just keep delivering. I thank them for their friendship and their assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the greatest state in the nation. I will always keep you and your administration in my prayers. May the Lord continue to bless the Great State of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Brent Kisling