



GWY.9 DBF
CHEROKEE NATION®

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Chuck Hoskin Jr.

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December 13, 2021

Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capital
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Re: Tribal-State Hunting and Fishing Compact

Dear Governor Stitt:

I am writing to memorialize your decision not to enter into a Hunting and Fishing Compact (“Compact”) between the State of Oklahoma (“State”) and Cherokee Nation (“Nation”) for calendar year 2022 and beyond. As I understand your communication of November 30, 2021, you have rejected our proposal in its entirety, have no draft agreement of your own to serve as a counter, and will consider no additional terms. This, of course, is an about-face departure from your previous decisions to extend the terms of the existing agreement in 2019 and 2020.

As you know, the Compact executed by the State and the Nation in 2015 was the first of its kind between a State and a Tribe. Generally considered a landmark agreement, it served as a nationwide example of successful and cooperative tribal-state governance and a model for other agreements. Undoubtedly, the Compact has created tremendous financial opportunity, having leveraged over thirty-two million dollars in revenue and federal funding dedicated to wildlife conservation, law enforcement, and expanded opportunities for State and Tribal citizens to enjoy traditional outdoor activities across the State.

In the Nation’s view, the Compact has served our respective governments well, reflecting our collective effort in preserving our shared wildlife resources. Although the continuation of our compact would be an unquestionable win-win for the State and the Nation, we understand that you have chosen to reject the path of cooperation. Furthermore, we reiterate that your rejection of the Compact will cost the citizens of Oklahoma tens of millions dollars in federal funding that would otherwise be available to support wildlife conservation for future generations.

Moving forward, the Nation will continue to protect the hunting and fishing rights guaranteed by various treaties with the United States of America. We remain open to dialogue with state agencies on matters related to management of our shared wildlife resources in a spirit of mutual respect for the sovereignty of the Nation and the interests of the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Hoskin, Jr." in a cursive style.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

cc: Honorable Matt Pinnell, Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage
Oklahoma State Capital
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105