



Kiowa Tribe

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Public Relations

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For Immediate Release

KIOWA TRIBE REACTS TO GAMING EXTENSION TALKS

CARNEGIE, Okla. - Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt made a public announcement Tuesday, December 17, 2019, that he is signing an extension of the Tribal Gaming Compact that allows gaming in Oklahoma. While that is welcome news he, unfortunately, continues to believe and say that “this is not about the Tribes.” He compares casino revenues and fees to states like New York that have a much higher per capita income than Oklahoma. He insists that Tribes pay much higher fees as that would only be “fair” to other Oklahoma Industries. The Governor only has to look at the oil and gas industry to see that he is being completely dishonest.

The oil and gas industry in Oklahoma helped pass legislation by the Republican-controlled House, Senate, and Governor in 2014, which set a tax break for horizontal drillers of 2% for the first three years of operation, when most of the money is earned from the wells, making the tax break PERMANENT.

Oil and Gas operators essentially maintain a permanent rebate of over 70% (this also includes vertical drillers). Instead of asking the largest, most wealthy industry for more tax revenue to support our schools, roads, health care and many other things that we need as citizens. The governor wants the Tribes, to pay for their Oil and Gas friends who donate millions to their re-elections.

One thing the Governor is correct about, all the Tribes are different. You may recall the Kiowa Tribe has just begun to see the benefit of our casinos after paying off a massive debt to our investors. The Kiowa Tribe has worked hard to see that more casino revenue comes back to the tribe. As we move forward to be assured as the Tribal Chairman, we will work tirelessly to ensure that our Kiowa people will benefit from the casino revenues and will not be a rubber stamp for the State of Oklahoma.

Matthew Komalty
Kiowa Tribal Chairman