May 5, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Tribal Titles

There are over thirty federally recognized tribes in the State of Oklahoma. Many of these tribes are authorized to issue titles and registration to their members.

It should be noted that any title or registration issued by a federally recognized tribe is considered to be valid. Any lien filing issued by a tribal tax commission is also valid.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at (405) 521-3221.

Sincerely,

RUBY DALEY, ADMINISTRATOR
Motor Vehicle Division

By: [Signature]

Beth Conner, Title Consultant

BC/lck
DATE: July 1, 1997

TO: ALL TRIBAL LEADERS

FROM: BOB A. RICKS, Commissioner of Public Safety
      ROBERT ANDERSON, Chairman, Oklahoma Tax Commission

RE: SB 586 - Amendments to 47 O.S. §§ 6-106, 854 and 1151

This memorandum is in response to the many inquiries received regarding the impact of SB 586 on tribal members owning vehicles which have a license plate issued by a federally-recognized tribe in Oklahoma. It is our view that the above-cited law does not apply where the individual owns a vehicle which is not required to be registered by the State of Oklahoma. Any other interpretation would mean the Legislature indirectly intended to require registration of vehicles which are otherwise specifically exempt from Oklahoma registration requirements. See Sac and Fox Nation v. Oklahoma Tax Comm'n, 113 S.Ct. 1985, 508 U.S. 114, 124 L.Ed.2d 301, rehearing denied 113 S.Ct. 3066, 509 U.S. 933, 125 L.Ed.2d 748 on remand 7 F.3d 925.

Accordingly, a member of a federally-recognized Oklahoma tribe, living in “Indian country” as defined by federal law and owning a vehicle bearing a valid license plate from the tribe has:

1. a valid license plate to be treated the same as an Oklahoma license plate under the provisions of 47 O.S. 1151 as amended by SB 586;

2. a valid license plate for purposes of obtaining a motor vehicle inspection; and

3. a valid license plate for purposes of obtaining an Oklahoma driver license.

You are authorized to reproduce a copy of this letter and furnish it to any concerned tribal member or other interested party.

BOB A. RICKS, Commissioner

ROBERT V. CULLISON, Vice-Chairman