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February 7, 2012

VIA COUNSEL OF RECORD

The Honorable Glenn Coffee
Oklahoma Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Patrick Wyrick
Neal Leader
Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General
313 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Fallin:

Thank you for your letter that was transmitted through our counsel on February 2. We appreciate that you are taking a direct role in the resolution of our water claims. Your leadership and personal involvement are critical to reaching a solution that benefits all Oklahomans.

Our goals and our intent remain the same and echo the requests that we have made for many years. We believe it is necessary to sit down together, sovereign to sovereign – to speak openly so we can reach a fair and equitable solution on the management of water in southeastern Oklahoma, our treaty homeland.

A general stream adjudication is not required as a result of our court action. Our filing does not disrupt existing uses of water made pursuant to valid state permits. In order to reassure all Oklahomans of our intent, and to underscore our commitment to good faith negotiations, we filed an amended document – agreed to by both our legal teams – to clear up any misunderstanding that might still remain. This should leave no doubt that the filing of a stream adjudication is not a necessity, but a choice of the state.

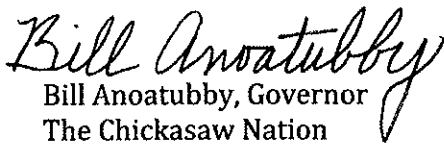
Dismissing the lawsuit is not a realistic option until such time as we have a reasonable resolution to this dispute. History shows the best way to achieve resolution is through talks where both parties come to the table, prepared and empowered, to have good faith negotiations. There was a lack of negotiations or meaningful engagement until we filed our suit, and if we dismissed, our current *court ordered* mediations would cease. We want those mediations to succeed.


The Honorable Mary Fallin
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Chickasaws and Choctaws *are* Oklahomans too, and we share your concern for our state. Our employees and our citizens are Oklahoma business owners, Oklahoma taxpayers and part of what makes this state great. A comprehensive water management plan that provides for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses is essential to long term sustainability of this important resource.

We are committed to finding a reasonable solution. Resolution will take time, but we remain optimistic that we will find a path that works for all of us. We welcome you to actively join us in pursuit of a resolution.

Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma