

TO DECLARE THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA A DISASTER AREA

IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

A COUNCIL BILL

TO DECLARE, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as a Disaster Area and to implement the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Operations Plan,

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation") provides that the Tribal Council (the "Council") shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") has identified the potential public health threat posed by novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as "high" both globally and in the United States and recommends social distancing to reduce exposure and slow the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is caused by a new strain of Coronavirus not previously identified in humans and easily spread from person to person;

WHEREAS, there is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment for this disease;

WHEREAS, the CDC has declared that older adults and those with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease are at a higher risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, many patrons of the Nation's facilities, including casinos and community centers, are of an age group that is high risk for fatality due to the COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national health emergency in the United States as a result of the national spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma declared a public health emergency in all seventy-seven counties of the State of Oklahoma, including those counties included in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, ten cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the State of Oklahoma, while Texas and Arkansas have confirmed seventy-six and twenty-two cases of COVID-19, respectively;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the National Indian Gaming Commission wrote a letter to all tribal government leaders, as the best first line of defense, imploring them to take necessary steps to protect the public amid the pending COVID-19 crisis;

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WHEREAS, the Nation has previously lost thousands of members while relocating to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears and consequently places the health and welfare of its members as its priority;

WHEREAS, the perception and fear surrounding COVID-19 has led to an immediate downturn in business and an increase in civil unrest;

WHEREAS, the Nation's members, employees, and patrons are worried about the long-term effects of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, immediate attention is required to protect public health, ensure public safety and render emergency relief;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned conditions pose a threat to the safety and welfare of the Nation and the communities within the geographical boundaries of the Nation and create an emergency disaster situation;

WHEREAS, due to the heavy foot traffic and commerce, the Nation's businesses and ventures have been infected by the self-sustaining and replicating COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Chief Gary Batton issued an executive order closing numerous functions of the Nation under his authority in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it is in the best interest of the Nation to declare the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma a disaster area.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this bill declares the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma a disaster area, including but not limited to structures and roads, entitled to aid, relief and assistance.

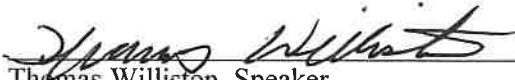
BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Tribal Council, that this bill be cited as approval to implement the Choctaw Nation Emergency Operations Plan until further notice.

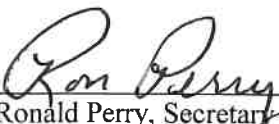
BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Tribal Council, that this bill be cited as acknowledgement and support to the Chief's Executive Order EO-01-20, which closed and limited the Nation's businesses and activities, effective until further notice, before the expiration of which a new executive order may issue.

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CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Special Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on February 8, 2020.. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB-74 -20 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.


Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Ronald Perry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council


Gary Patton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 4-14-2020

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Purpose/Need of Council Bill: To approve the declaration that the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a disaster area and to approve the implementation of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Operation Plan, including the cancellations, closures, postponements, and accommodations for personnel of the Choctaw Nation until further notice.

Title of Council Bill: TO APPROVAL TO DECLARE THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA A DISASTER AREA

Branch: Tribal Council

Budget: NA

Match Required: NA.

Request by Project Director: