

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PLACEMENT AND OPERATION OF A  
PROPOSED IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT DETENTION  
FACILITY IN DURANT, OKLAHOMA**

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**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**JAMES DRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL**

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**A JOINT RESOLUTION**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION** expressing the position of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in opposition to the siting and operation of a proposed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) detention facility at the former Big Lots distribution facility site in Durant, Oklahoma, within the Choctaw Nation Reservation; and authorizing the release of an official public statement.

**WHEREAS**, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the “Nation”) is a sovereign Tribal Nation and, in the exercise of its inherent self-governing authority, is committed to promoting and safeguarding the health, safety, welfare, and security of its citizens, employees, visitors, and those who work at, visit, or receive services at Nation facilities within the Choctaw Nation Reservation;

**WHEREAS**, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma maintains key governmental operations and community-serving facilities in and around Durant, Oklahoma, including its headquarters and facilities serving children, elders, patients, families, and the general public;

**WHEREAS**, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma operates major economic enterprises in Durant, including gaming and hospitality facilities within a mile of the proposed detention facility that support essential governmental services, jobs, and regional economic stability;

**WHEREAS**, information presented to the Nation reflects a proposal to locate and operate an ICE detention facility at the former Big Lots distribution facility site in Durant, Oklahoma, with a contemplated scale that could house up to thousands of detained individuals;

**WHEREAS**, Choctaw Nation mapping and internal analysis reflect that the former Big Lots distribution facility site is in close proximity to the Nation’s headquarters and multiple community-serving facilities, including childcare and child development services, health services, wellness services, and facilities serving elders and families;

**WHEREAS**, the Nation’s analysis reflects that the proposed site is approximately **2,256 feet** from the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters and approximately **1,073 feet** from the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center, placing detention operations unacceptably close to facilities where children are present daily and where essential governmental functions occur;

**WHEREAS**, the public and governmental health analysis further identifies significant public health concerns associated with detention operations of this scale, including, without limitation, infectious disease transmission risks, strain on local and regional health systems, and

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environmental and infrastructure impacts related to water use, wastewater output, and sanitation demands;

**WHEREAS**, the Nation's analysis also identifies significant safety and security concerns associated with detention operations of this scale, including, without limitation, increased demand on law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services; the potential for protests and traffic disruption; facility security incidents; and other impacts that could divert public safety resources from existing community needs;

**WHEREAS**, the Choctaw Nation has been preparing significant community and economic development initiatives in the Durant area, and the location and operation of a detention facility of this nature in such close proximity to the Nation's governmental, community, and economic center threatens long-term planning, investment, and the safety and well-being of Choctaw families and the broader community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds that the proposed placement and operation of an ICE detention facility at this location is inconsistent with the Nation's obligation to protect children, elders, patients, employees, and visitors; undermines community security and public confidence; and poses unacceptable risks to the Nation's governmental operations and economic enterprises in Durant.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to the joint motion by the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr., by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Joint Resolution be cited as a resolution opposing the placement and operation of a proposed ICE detention facility at the former Big Lots distribution facility site in Durant, Oklahoma, within the Choctaw Nation Reservation, due to public health, safety, community, and economic impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council hereby adopts and authorizes release of the following official public statement of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma:

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA  
TRIBAL COUNCIL**

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Council publicly states its firm opposition to the placing, permitting, contracting for, or operation of any Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility within the Choctaw Nation Reservation at or near the former Big Lots distribution facility location in Durant, Oklahoma.

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This proposed location is unacceptably close to the Nation's governmental headquarters and to multiple Choctaw Nation facilities that serve children, families, elders, patients, employees, and visitors each day. The Nation's analysis and mapping reflect that the proposed site is located within a short distance of the Choctaw Nation headquarters campus and approximately 1,073 feet from the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center. The Tribal Council will not accept a detention operation of this scale being placed next to facilities where children learn and are cared for, where families access essential services, and where the Nation conducts core governmental business.

The Tribal Council's opposition is based on serious concerns for public health, public safety, emergency response capacity, and community disruption. Detention operations of this nature can create heightened demands on law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services; raise public safety risks and security concerns; and generate traffic disruptions, protest activity, and other impacts that place avoidable burdens on the surrounding community. The Tribal Council also recognizes the potential for public health and infrastructure impacts associated with detention operations, including infectious disease risks and sanitation and wastewater demands that can affect the broader community beyond the facility itself.

The Choctaw Nation also opposes the proposed facility due to its proximity to the Nation's key economic and community corridor in Durant, including gaming and hospitality operations that support essential governmental services and jobs. The Tribal Council will not support actions that jeopardize the safety, stability, growth, and long-term planning of the Nation's governmental and economic center in Durant.

The Choctaw Nation's position is not directed at any individual person. It is directed at an irresponsible location decision that would place detention operations in immediate proximity to vulnerable populations and critical Choctaw Nation facilities. The Tribal Council calls upon all relevant federal, state, county, and municipal officials, to the extent permitted by law, to deny, halt, or refuse any approvals, permits, zoning actions, contracts, or infrastructure commitments required to establish or operate an ICE detention facility at this location or any similarly situated location that endangers the Nation's headquarters area, community facilities, or children and families.

The Choctaw Nation will continue to insist on meaningful government-to-government engagement and will actively pursue all appropriate governmental and legal avenues to protect its citizens, employees, visitors, and community.

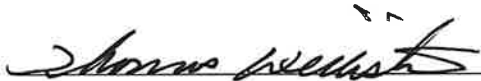
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the Tribal Council, the Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and authorized representatives of the Nation are hereby directed and authorized to transmit this Resolution and the foregoing Public Statement to relevant federal, state, county, and municipal officials and agencies; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Public Statement may be released immediately upon adoption of this Resolution.

**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 eleven ( 11 ) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, on January 10, 2026. I further certify that the foregoing Joint Resolution CR- 02 - 26 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of eleven ( 11 ) members, zero ( 0 ) negative votes, and zero ( 0 ) abstaining.*

  
Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
James Dry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
Gary Barton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Date: 1-14-26