



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 28, 2020

## **Statement on Tribal Gaming Lawsuit**

***The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma ruled today that gaming compacts automatically renewed on January 1, 2020 for a 15 year term.***

(Stroud, Oklahoma)- The Sac and Fox Nation Business Committee issued the following statement after Chief U.S. District Judge Timothy D. DeGiusti ruled that tribal gaming compacts automatically renewed on January 1, 2020.

“We are pleased this dispute has been settled. We stand united with our fellow nations and commend the efforts to enforce the unambiguous terms of the gaming compacts. The Sac and Fox Nation’s gaming enterprises positively impact Oklahoma’s economy and provide critical employment opportunities in our jurisdiction.”

In July 2019, the Business Committee passed a resolution affirming the automatic renewal of the compact on January 1, 2020. The Business Committee did not seek to renegotiate the Sac and Fox Nation’s gaming compact with the state of Oklahoma and shared its position on automatic renewal with the Governor of Oklahoma. The Sac and Fox Nation was not a party to the lawsuit.

“Today’s ruling confirms the gaming compacts automatically renewed on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This has always been our position, and I’m pleased everyone in Oklahoma now has clarity on the issue,” stated Principal Chief Justin F. Wood. “I commend the tribal leaders who attempted to resolve the dispute at an early stage and ultimately sought a judicial declaration on the issue. Unfortunately, the dispute had to be elevated to a federal court, even though the compact language was clear. This was at a great expense to Oklahoma taxpayers. The Tribes will continue to work together for the prosperity of all.”

**About the Sac and Fox Nation:** The Sac and Fox Nation is a federally recognized tribal nation of over 4,000 enrolled members. The Nation is led by the Business Committee, comprised of five elected officials: Principal Chief Justin F. Wood, Second Chief Don Abney, Secretary Jacklyn King, Treasurer Jared King, and Committee Member Robert Williamson. The Nation’s jurisdiction lies in portions of Payne, Lincoln and Pottawatomie counties, with the capitol complex located outside of Stroud.

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