RECEIVED
NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION
00 MAY 32 PM 2:18

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY - 3 2000

Honorable Greg Pyle
Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74702-1210

Dear Chief Pyle:

On April 19, 2000, we received an Amendment to the Tribal-State Off-Track Wagering Compact (Amendment) between the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Tribe) and the State of Oklahoma (State), dated April 6, 2000. We have completed our review of this Amendment and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Federal law, or our trust responsibility. Therefore, pursuant to Section 11(d)(8)(A) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8)(A) and delegated authority in 209 DM 8.1, we approve the Amendment. The Amendment shall take effect when the notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11 (d)(3)(B) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

We wish the Tribe and the State continued success in their economic venture.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kevin Gover

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent to: Honorable Frank Keating
Governor of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

cc: Eastern Oklahoma Region w/copy of approved Amendment
Supt., Talihina Agency w/copy of approved Amendment
National Indian Gaming Commission w/copy of approved Amendment
Field Solicitor w/copy of approved Amendment
Oklahoma United States Attorney w/copy of approved Amendment

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of amendment to approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), (Pub. L. 100–497), 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved the Amendment to the Tribal State Off-Track Wagering Compact between the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma, which was executed on April 6, 2000.

DATES: This action is effective May 12, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Indian Gaming Management Staff, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: May 3, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00–11942 Filed 5–11–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

FILED
APR 6 2000
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

AMENDMENT TO TRIBAL STATE OFF-TRACK WAGERING COMPACT BETWEEN THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA AND THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma ("Tribe") and the State of Oklahoma ("State") are parties to an existing state tribal off-track pari-mutuel wagering compact which became effective on April 15, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, the term of the said Compact is for a period of three (3) years and automatically renews for successive three (3) year terms unless one of the parties notifies the other of its intent to terminate at any time during the three year term except during the final thirty (30) days preceding the end of the term; and,

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2000, the State, through the office of the Governor, served notice on the Tribe of the State's intent of non-renewal and termination effective April 15, 2000, with a reservation of the right to withdraw said notification prior to April 15, 2000 to allow renewal of the Compact; and,

WHEREAS, the parties had been negotiating to modify or amend the Compact since mid-1999 and desire to continue such negotiations without prejudice to the rights of the parties prior to and including April 15, 2000, or on any negotiations between the Tribe or the State with any third-parties with respect to claims they may have that they are affected by the Compact or any modifications or amendments thereto ("Affected Third-Parties"); and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that consideration of the possible retroactivity of any agreement with such Affected Third-Parties' should not be an impediment to such negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the parties cannot complete negotiations prior to April 15, 2000; and,

WHEREAS, neither party desires the Compact to be terminated unless said negotiations are unsuccessful;

WHEREFORE, it is herewith agreed that the Compact be amended as follows:

(A) Section 19(b) of the Compact is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

> (b) Term. The term of this Compact shall be from the effective date, April 15, 1997, until July 31, 2000 and shall automatically renew for a period of three (3) years from July 31, 2000, unless either party notifies the other more than thirty (30) days before expiration of the term that it intends to terminate the Compact at the end of the existing term in the manner required by the Compact.

(B) The State herewith withdraws its previous notification of intent to terminate with a reservation of the right to renew said notification as set forth in subsection (A). During the extended period set forth in subsection (A), all rights of the parties as they existed prior to and as of April 15, 2000 shall be deemed to be preserved.

(C) The Tribe agrees that the State will not be negotiating in bad faith if, as a condition to entering into any further modification or amendment, the State requires that such modification or amendments or any portions thereof, or any related agreement with the State or any Affected Third Parties, be retroactively effective as of April 15, 2000.

(D) The parties desire the support of the State Tribal Relations Committee of the Oklahoma legislature and will submit the revision in subparagraph (A) to the Committee for that purpose.

(E) The parties shall cooperate in seeking any approvals or in executing any documents as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this document.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

GOVERNOR 4/5/00 Date

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE 4/5/00 Date

CHIEF OF THE CHOCTAW NATION 4/5/00 Date

Approved by the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations

CHAIRMAN 4-6-2000 Date

Consistent with 25 U.S.C.A. § 2710 (d)(8), this Supplement to Tribal State Compact is approved on the _____ day of _____, 2000, by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY: _____ DATED: MAY 3, 2000

Kevin Gover
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs