

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF
CAHUILLA INDIANS, et. al,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MNUCHIN,

Defendant.

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Case No. _____

**DECLARATION OF CHUCK HOSKIN, JR.,
PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

I, Chuck Hoskin Jr., pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am the elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, a federally recognized Indian Tribe.
2. The Cherokee Nation's Reservation comprises 4,447,715.7 acres of land located in Oklahoma, with 385,193 tribal citizens.
3. The Cherokee Nation ("the Nation") provides critical governmental services throughout the Reservation including healthcare, housing, social services, law enforcement, food distribution, heating assistance, issuance of motor vehicle tags, environmental compliance, job placement, and education.
4. In order to provide these critical government services, the Nation relies heavily on government revenue generated by its business enterprises in the gaming, hospitality and government contracting industries. The Nation engages in extensive commercial leasing as well, including multiple restaurants and commercial retail establishments. Many of the Nation's commercial leases are currently providing no rental income or sales tax to the Nation or its business entities due to the pandemic. It is not clear if or when all commercial lessees will reopen and/or resume normal business operations under the leases after local quarantines are lifted.
5. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Nation declared a state of emergency. It placed all non-essential employees on administrative leave and closed nearly all of the Nation's most profitable commercial enterprises. In FY2019, Cherokee Nation Businesses generated \$1.2 billion dollars in revenue and employed nearly 8000 people. More than half of Cherokee Nation Businesses revenue has been lost since the pandemic began, and the long term effects of the pandemic on the business enterprises is uncertain.

6. The Nation has also incurred substantial additional expenses to address the COVID-19 crises. The Nation has increased expenditures for additional personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitation supplies, services for its tribal elder's food distribution programs, renovations to existing facilities, erection of temporary medical facilities, medical equipment, testing supplies, telework and telemedicine software/equipment, and public communication materials. These emergency services are unbudgeted expenses.
7. Every month that passes the Cherokee Nation and its businesses lose tens of millions of dollars in revenue that are used to fund essential government services which are in more demand than ever due to the pandemic. With over 30 million Americans filing for unemployment in the last six weeks, the need for healthcare for uninsured citizens, job placement services, emergency housing, and food distribution are all in high demand. Without the relief dollars allocated by Congress in the CARES Act, the Nation's ability to serve its citizens will become increasingly limited every day. It may also lead to furloughs or lay-offs that would otherwise have been avoided. Any lay-offs or furloughs would have substantial impact on health and welfare.

I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and, if called to do so, I would competently testify to these facts. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 1, 2020.

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Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation