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**Poarch Band of Creek Indians Refutes False Claims of Victory
by Muscogee Nation in Ongoing Land Dispute**

The Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma is falsely claiming victory in their nuisance lawsuit aimed at taking control of land owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

In fact, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals referred the case back to the lower court citing a lack of clarity in the Muscogee lawsuit which the Court characterized as a "shotgun complaint."

The three-judge panel found that it was unable to resolve the merits of the lawsuit and referred the case back to the District Court with instructions for Muscogee to file a new complaint that meets the requirements of federal law. Once that new complaint is filed, the Poarch Band intends to file a new motion to dismiss. This will mark the Muscogee Nation's fourth attempt to file a viable complaint in this lawsuit.

"Once again, our Tribe is faced with the task of correcting blatant misrepresentations put forth by the Muscogee nation," said Stephanie A. Bryan, Chair and CEO of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. "It is a sad truth that the Muscogee have knowingly promoted a false narrative about our Tribe and our land for many years. But it is shocking that their false narrative now extends to actions taken by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals which is clearly a matter of public record."

Poarch offered Muscogee the chance to jointly purchase the privately-owned land near Wetumpka, Alabama in the early 80s. The land had been flooded and farmed with heavy equipment for decades, and there were plans to have a "big box" store built on the site. The Muscogee never responded to the offer of co-ownership.

Poarch instead became the sole owner of the property which was subject to a 20-year covenant prohibiting development of the land. When the covenant expired, Poarch built a hotel and casino on their property that brought much-needed economic development and created jobs in a poor, rural part of Alabama.

Since that time, the Muscogee have made false claims about the condition of the land when Poarch purchased it and about the treatment of fragmented objects and remains that were discovered there. Contrary to those claims, Poarch has worked with Auburn University to protect and preserve what was discovered and has followed all tribal, state, and federal guidelines. In fact, Chairwoman Bryan has worked to strengthen the federal regulations that Muscogee falsely accuses Poarch of violating.



(Poarch Creek's response Continued)

Despite entreaties from Poarch leadership spanning decades, the Muscogee have continued to increase their hostile behavior towards Poarch and embellish their false narrative about Poarch's land and its intentions.

The legal action taken against Poarch is based on fiction, not facts. Muscogee seeks to take land that it does not own and to tear down legally built structures that have brought family-supporting jobs to hundreds of Alabamians. This is an attack on tribal sovereignty, and the recent decision by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in no way validates those claims.