

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CHOCTAW NATION  
P.O. 1210  
Durant, OK 74701

Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN MNUCHIN, in his official  
Capacity as the Secretary of the United  
States Department of the Treasury,  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cv-001136 (APM)

**AFFIDAVIT OF GARY BATTON,  
CHIEF OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

The Choctaw Nation's Reservation comprises 6,952,960 acres of land located in Oklahoma, with 198,358 tribal members.

The Tribe provides 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.

The Tribe's business enterprises include gaming, hospitality and government contracting sectors that include technology, environmental and construction, health care, real estate, security and defense. The Tribe 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 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.


In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Tribe 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, Choctaw Nation Businesses generated \$1.2 billion dollars in revenue and employed over 10,000 people. Nearly all of Choctaw Nation Businesses revenue has been lost since the pandemic began, and the long-term effects of the pandemic on the business enterprises is uncertain.

The Tribe has also incurred substantial additional expenses to address the COVID-19 crises. The Tribe has procured additional personal protective equipment (PPE), increased spending on cleaning and sanitation supplies, services for its tribal elders and food distribution programs, renovations to existing facilities, tents for testing facilities, medical equipment, testing supplies, telework and telemedicine software/equipment, and public communication materials. These emergency services are unbudgeted expenses.

Every month that passes the Choctaw Nation and its businesses lose approximately \$40 million 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. It may also lead to furloughs or lay-offs that would otherwise have been avoided.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Patton  
Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma