

TIME SIGNED: 3:38 pm



OFFICE OF

No. HB 3501

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., May 9, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTY-EIGHTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 3501

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 3501.

As Governor of the State of Oklahoma, I am charged with safeguarding State interests and protecting all 4 million Oklahomans.

While Enrolled House Bill 3501 was passed under the guise of public safety, this bill is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It would essentially require the State to carry out tribal court adjudications, no questions asked. Specifically, it would bind the Department of Public Safety (DPS), a State agency, to recognize and act upon reports of conviction submitted by courts of any federally recognized Indian tribe located anywhere in the State of Oklahoma in the same manner it acts upon reports of conviction from State and municipal courts.

As all involved are no doubt aware, some tribes have rallied around recent requests that the U.S. Supreme Court deny Oklahoma the ability to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indians in nearly half the State, which hamstring the State's ability to seek justice for Indian and non-Indian victims alike.

If this bill had required of tribes what is expected of all legitimate governments—namely: transparency, accountability, and reciprocity, among others, perhaps I would have signed it. But as it reads now, this bill further erodes more than one hundred and ten years of settled State jurisdiction and sovereignty. As Governor, I will not be a part of any effort to yield to tribes sweeping jurisdiction where legally there is none.

As I have done before, I again invite tribal and other leaders and partners to work with me toward reasonable solutions rather than engaging in aggressive efforts to strip the State of its established authority to prosecute, tax, and regulate all 4 million Oklahomans, regardless of race, background, or affiliation otherwise.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 3501.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Delivered to HOUSE by: Sumer Curry
Date/Time: 5/9/22; 4:03 pm

HOUSE:
Received by: Collette A. Haecher
Date/Time: 5/9/22, 4:09 pm

RECEIVED
MAY 09 2022
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE
04:15 pm