

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**
organized February 3, 1950

March 18, 2024

Dear Pro Tem Treat, Floor Leader McCortney, and Senator Howard,

As the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC), an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations, we are deeply committed to the protection of the land, waters, and people on our Reservations. For this reason, we are strongly opposed to House Bill 4118.

We have always supported and honored the work of poultry farmers and the agriculture industry. Like any industry, they also have a responsibility to be good neighbors who avoid polluting waters relied on by the whole community. That is why current Oklahoma law prohibits the discharge of poultry waste into the waters of the state.

By removing this common-sensical prohibition, shielding polluters from liability, and replacing these protections with vague rules to be developed by a relatively small state agency, HB 4118 could damage Oklahoma's ability to keep our waters clean. The State Department of Agriculture lacks the capacity to inspect and enforce Nutrient Management Plans across the entire state, and the agency's historic oversight of nutrient management has not proven adequate to protect water quality and ensure best practices across Oklahoma.

We are united in opposition to a bill that threatens to undermine safe drinking water and healthy environments across our Reservations. We urge Oklahoma lawmakers to maintain the balance between agricultural interests and the necessity of environmental protection. House Bill 4118 fails to strike this balance. We ask that it not advance in the Oklahoma Senate.



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gary Batton
Chief



David W. Hill
Principal Chief



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma