

QUAPAW NATION

P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363-0765

(918) 542-1853
FAX (918) 542-4694

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STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN JOHN L. BERREY ON OFFICIAL APPROVAL AND STATUS OF THE QUAPAW TRUST SETTLEMENT

To the Members of the Quapaw Nation:

Last month I reported to you that we had reached an agreement in principle with the United States Department of Justice on a final settlement of the Quapaw Nation's trust litigation. Today, the Justice Department confirmed to the Court that the settlement has been officially approved. This means the payment process for persons eligible to participate in the first phase of the settlement can begin soon.

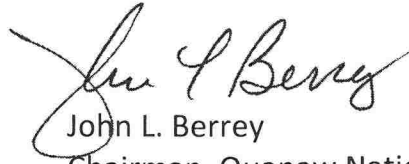
As we explained in the information meetings last year, this settlement will total almost \$200 million when it is completed, and will benefit every living member of our Nation. One part of the settlement includes \$59 million to be paid for the claims in the *Goodeagle* and *Quapaw Tribe* cases. The individuals eligible in the *Goodeagle* case are those who currently own federally managed Indian assets (including IIM accounts, Indian land, chat), and therefore who have claims that are still within the statute of limitations.

When this process began, we recognized that many Quapaw families sold or lost their land many decades ago, and do not have viable claims because of the expiration of the statute of limitations and other defenses. To make it possible to seek a remedy for those persons, I personally worked to obtain special legislation known as a "congressional reference." Adopted by the United States House of Representatives in late 2012, this legislation enabled us to file the *Bear* case. The overall settlement includes \$137.5 million to be paid for the claims brought through the congressional reference. Our plan is to include every living tribal member in that portion of the settlement.

The individuals eligible to participate in the *Goodeagle* case will receive settlement checks as soon as the required processes are completed by the U.S. Treasury Department. The legal team and I are hopeful those settlement checks will be issued before the end of 2019 or by early next year at the latest. The *Bear* settlement will require an approval by the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and an appropriation by Congress. I cannot predict how long it will take for the Court to issue its final report for that case. But I have already begun talking with our friends in Congress to try to lay the groundwork for the necessary legislation.

As I have said before, this settlement represents symbolic justice for the wrongs done to the Quapaw people through the federal government's mismanagement of our lands and accounts. Our ancestors and many of our elders who suffered these wrongs and who deserved this restitution are gone. But I hope the recognition by the federal government of these past

injustices will help the members of our Nation living today close the books on the past. I am very grateful that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your Chairman, and to work toward obtaining this settlement for you. Gun-Ney-Gay.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Berrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John L. Berrey
Chairman, Quapaw Nation Business Committee