



**Native American
Legal Resource Center**

School of Law
2501 N. Blackwelder
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**OKLAHOMA
CITY UNIVERSITY**

received
3-8-93

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Honorable Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820

Dear Governor:

The Daily Oklahoman reported, on February 17, that the "Chickasaw Nation [had] become the first Indian tribe in the nation to contract its own roads construction program through the Bureau of Indian Affairs". Please accept my hearty congratulations.

I believe your contracting for the program provides a golden opportunity to begin the process of overcoming an erroneous perception, regarding the Oklahoma Indian reservation boundaries, since statehood.

In previous correspondence I advised you I have been attempting to have the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs fulfill their fiduciary and advocacy roles by proclaiming that the Indian reservation boundaries, as they existed when Oklahoma became a State, still exist. The Department has not made a substantive response. As you are aware, the State takes the position that there are no Indian reservations in Oklahoma.

Now that you have contracted to operate the roads program for your tribe, you can advise the general public that the road and bridge, construction or repair, is being performed by the Chickasaw Nation "on the Chickasaw Reservation". This can be done by placing the appropriate wording on the highway signs which are required to be placed at construction and repair sites.

Before I entered the field of law I was a highway design engineer for the State of Oklahoma. If I can be of service do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Eddie V. Edwards
Senior Research Fellow

cc: All Oklahoma Tribal Leaders
Prof. Kirke Kickingbird