



To whom it may concern:

Together, we are committed to the safety, prosperity, and freedom of all citizens. Combined, we have more than 100 years of service to our communities pursuing our shared goal of making Oklahoma a better and safer place to live. These goals know no cultural, racial, or political bounds, but rather are centered in a common belief that together we can create communities that are safe places to live with liberty and justice for all. Right now, there is an active and clear threat to our ability to keep our communities safe, hold criminals accountable, and deliver on the promise to maintain law and order. That threat is coming from the United Keetoowah Band (UKB), and it must be addressed.

Absent any legal rights or authority, the UKB is running their Lighthorse outside of their jurisdiction. Their rogue Police force's illegal actions put's the public safety of all Oklahomans at risk. The UKB's Lighthorse possess no legal authority to make traffic stops, investigate crimes, or act as sworn public safety officers on the 7,000-square-mile Cherokee Nation Reservation—a reservation where joint agreements with local sheriffs, municipalities and prosecutors have provided public safety and accountability for generations—and this should concern all Oklahomans, tribal and non-tribal citizens alike.

Everyone is innocent until proven guilty. But a recent alleged DUI case underscores the big picture threats to public safety, jurisdictional issues, and the rule of law independent of anyone's guilt.

Recently, a person passing through Tahlequah, and alleged to be driving under the influence, was arrested and charged with a DUI. The defendant's attorney moved the court to suppress all evidence related to the traffic stop on the basis that the UKB Lighthorse lacked jurisdiction and the legal authority to detain or arrest anyone. The employee of UKB, like all UKB Lighthorse staff, lacked the legal authority to pull over vehicles, much less detain anyone, which the "officer" did. This DUI case in Tahlequah underscores the threats to public safety across the Cherokee Nation Reservation. We outline those threats below:

- **Public safety threat**—Imagine a crime is committed in your county. The first responding "officer" comes from the UKB's Lighthorse and begins behaving like a police officer with jurisdictional authority (e.g. questioning witnesses, addressing threats, etc.). They detain the alleged criminal, but this is now a public safety threat, and your constituent is being illegally detained. Your constituents, alleged criminal or innocent bystander, are no safer, and in fact are likely less safe, now that someone has arrived in costume and is pretending to be a police officer. As the proper and legal authorities show up, they will need to not only address the crime but also assess the impact of someone posing as law enforcement. As you all know, public safety stops, or alleged crimes can be charged

environments and introducing fake, armed police can only serve to ratchet up the temperature of those situations.

- **Jurisdictional issues**—Imagine your constituents are driving through Tahlequah on the way to a family event. They see flashing lights coming from a car attempting to pull them over. But the person attempting to pull over your constituent is not a police officer. They hold no legal authority or jurisdiction over your constituent. Now, in fact, your constituent is being pulled over by someone posing as a police officer, badge and uniform included. Whether a crime was committed by your constituent or not, the evidence and interaction between the person impersonating an officer and your constituent will be rightfully questioned in whatever court any alleged charge is filed. With their actions, the UKB is creating unnecessary legal hurdles and roadblocks for prosecutors to hold criminals accountable. These jurisdictional issues could easily put criminals back on the streets, jeopardizing public safety.
- **Rule of law**—Fundamentally, citizens need to know who the proper authorities are. There is trust behind law enforcement and relationships forged between the communities they serve. The UKB Lighthouse lacks the legal authority to act. That fact undermines the work of all legal authorities in the region and undermines the faith citizens have in public safety efforts.


The Cherokee Nation Marshal Service will not interact with the UKB Lighthouse in any manner. The UKB Lighthouse will not be allowed at any vehicle stop, crime scene, emergency, or any other situation in which the CNMS has sole jurisdiction and responds to within the Cherokee Reservation. If a UKB Lighthouse appears on the scene where the CNMS has responded or is working an incident, with sole jurisdiction they will be ordered to leave. Failure to immediately vacate the scene will subject the Lighthouse to potential criminal prosecution under Cherokee Nation law.

If CNMS is working an incident with another law enforcement agency, and a UKB Lighthouse appears on the scene, CNMS will not engage in any manner with the UKB Lighthouse and will, as soon as it is practicable and safe for everyone involved, CNMS will leave the incident.

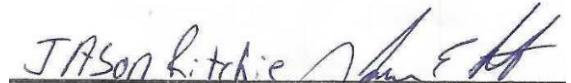
The law enforcement agencies who are signatories to this letter share Cherokee Nation and Marshal Buhl's deep commitment to public safety. We also are equally concerned about the threat the UKB Lighthouse pose at traffic stops and crime scenes. Their mere presence, and given the role they attempt to execute, jeopardizes criminal investigations and ultimately may allow criminals to go unprosecuted, unpunished and able to harm or kill others. Therefore, we hereby put the UKB on notice that they are not welcome at stops or crime scenes where our agencies are involved and if they appear, will be asked to leave. Failure to immediately vacate the scene will subject the UKB Lighthouse to potential criminal prosecution under Cherokee Nation law and potentially Oklahoma law.

We cannot be successful in our shared goals in the face of this threat from the UKB. I hope you will join us in acknowledging the threat and working together to make sure the proper and legal authorities can continue to work together to keep our communities safe.


Thank you.

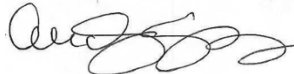
  
Cherokee Nation Marshal Service


  
Locust Grove PD

  
Adair County SO

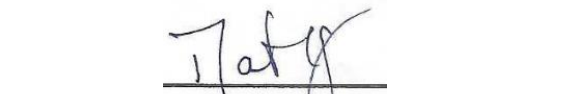
  
Pryor PD


  
Sequoyah County SO

  
Muskogee SO


  
Cherokee County SO

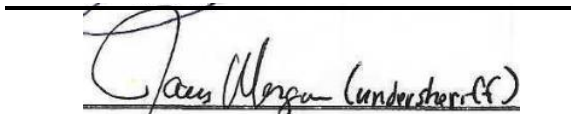
  
Verdigris PD

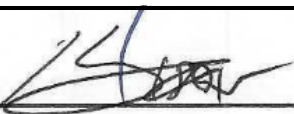
  
Tahlequah PD

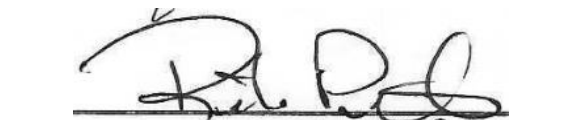
  
Rogers County SO

  
Stilwell PD

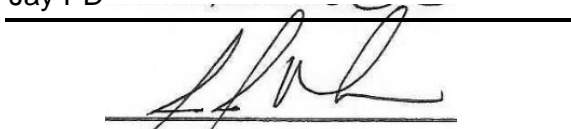
  
Claremore PD


  
Delaware County SO

  
Craig County SO

  
Jay PD

  
Vinita PD

  
Kansas PD

  
Ottawa County SO

CHRIS ELLIOTT  
Ch. Elliott

Wagoner County SO

Scott Owa

Washington County SO

Bh. Kelly

Wagoner PD

James

Nowata SO

W. J.

Webbers Falls PD

Neil Miel

Nowata PD

Ellen Ott

Vian PD

Quinn

Tulsa SO

K. J.

McIntosh County SO

R. J.

Warner PD

R. J.

Porum PD

R. J.

Muldrow PD

John H. Hester

Gore PD

R. J.

Fort Gibson PD