



GENTNER DRUMMOND
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 2, 2025

Via Email

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma
Kevin.Stitt@gov.ok.gov

**Re: *State of Oklahoma v. Tyson Foods, Inc. et al.*, 05-cv-329-GKF-SH (N.D. Okla.)
("Illinois River case")**

Governor Stitt:

I am writing in response to your letter dated November 25, 2025, in which you claim that you want to work with my office to resolve the Illinois River case. That claim rings hollow. When I was working cooperatively with your Secretary of Energy and Environment to find a reasonable solution, you fired your own Secretary simply for showing up at the December 2024 evidentiary hearing.¹ Notably, you took no action to resolve this case during the eighteen months your handpicked Attorney General was in office. Your actions speak louder than words: you are bought and paid for by out-of-state Big Poultry corporations. These companies have poured money into your political campaigns, and now you are doing their bidding—seeking a sweetheart deal that puts their profits ahead of Oklahoma's people, our farmers, and our land. I will not stand by and let that happen.

Let me be clear about who is really at stake here. Oklahoma's hardworking poultry farmers are not the problem—they are being used as pawns by out-of-state Big Poultry corporations that are maximizing their own profits while leaving our farmers to face the consequences. These corporations made \$474 million in profits last year. They can afford to follow the law and be good stewards of Oklahoma's agricultural land. Instead, they refuse to take responsibility—leaving our farmers to bear the consequences.

My efforts are firmly pro-agriculture. Oklahoma farmers are among the best stewards of the land anywhere in the country, and I will always fight for them. Holding out-of-state Big Poultry accountable to clean up their mess benefits all farmers in Eastern Oklahoma—it protects the soil and water that our agricultural communities will depend on for generations to come. For decades,

¹After the December 2024 evidentiary hearing, the Court found that the Illinois River Watershed ("IRW") is still impaired by excess phosphorus from the poultry waste practices of the poultry companies. Doc. 3161 at 21 ("Because the phosphorus run-off from land-applied poultry waste continues to be a significant source of phosphorus which is causing actual and ongoing injury to the waters of the IRW, the conditions in the IRW have not materially changed since trial.").

these out-of-state corporations have utilized the unsustainable practice of land applying poultry waste in amounts that have grossly overloaded the soils with phosphorus.² The excess phosphorus is of no use to the plants, and it even harms the growth of grass at certain levels. The damage doesn't stop at the soils. Excess phosphorus from poultry waste runs off the land and pollutes our streams, rivers, and lakes. Among other things, it causes overgrowth of algae and oxygen depletion that leads to death of fish and other aquatic animals.

I support the poultry industry making a healthy profit, but not at the expense of Oklahoma's land, water, and people. I invite you to join me in holding out-of-state Big Poultry accountable for remedying the damage they have caused to the Illinois River Watershed and for finding a solution that treats Oklahoma's farmers fairly and honestly. Rather than enabling the misinformation campaign of these corporations, you could be working with me to promote the coexistence of a vibrant poultry industry and clean water in Oklahoma. There is too much at stake for us to choose one over the other. And we do not have to make that choice if we defeat out-of-state Big Poultry's cynical campaign of fear that uses hardworking Oklahoma farmers as shields for their irresponsible practices.

I am firmly pro-agriculture and deeply committed to Oklahoma's farm families, but I will not turn a blind eye when out-of-state Big Poultry companies ignore the rule of law, abuse our land, and put excessive profits over the hardworking men and women who make this industry possible. You may be beholden to out-of-state Big Poultry's money, but I am beholden to the people of our state. I remain willing to work cooperatively with you toward a fair resolution, yet my responsibility is to protect Oklahoma's natural resources, our rural communities, and the honest producers who follow the rules—not the corporations whose bad business practices have harmed them.

Respectfully,



GENTNER DRUMMOND
Attorney General

² The out-of-state poultry companies are the ones who are responsible for bringing the excess phosphorus to the IRW in the first place. The companies require the use of feed that contains high levels of phosphorus to support the quick growth of birds. That excess phosphorus passes through the birds and ends up in the waste.