



March 5, 2026

Hon. J. Kevin Stitt  
Governor of Oklahoma

Hon. Kyle Hilbert  
Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives

Hon. Lonnie Paxton  
President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate

*Via email and U.S. First Class Mail*

***RE: Concerns about Oklahoma v. Tyson Foods, Inc. Litigation***

Dear Governor Stitt, President Pro Tempore Paxton and Speaker Hilbert,

We write to bring to your attention serious concerns about the current posture of the *Oklahoma v. Tyson Foods, Inc.*, litigation that has now reached a critical stage and could have significant consequences for one of Oklahoma's most important agricultural industries.

After many years of litigation, the federal court recently entered a lengthy judgment imposing decades of oversight and a costly remediation structure affecting poultry operations in eastern Oklahoma. After this judgment was entered, the Attorney General has negotiated a series of proposed settlements with certain poultry companies that are now pending before the court.

While we have long advocated for a reasonable, negotiated settlement to resolve this long-running litigation, the current situation raises concerns that deserve scrutiny.

First, **the proposed settlements would place different companies in the same industry under fundamentally different regulatory frameworks.** Some producers would operate under the terms of negotiated settlements with defined payments and shorter compliance periods, while others would remain subject to decades of court-supervised remediation and open-ended financial exposure under the court's judgment. Still others may not be subject to either court-supervision or a settlement agreement if they were not part of the original litigation. If approved, this would create a fragmented regulatory landscape in which companies competing in the same market operate under dramatically different rules. For an industry as important to eastern Oklahoma as poultry production, that kind of uneven structure could have lasting, negative economic consequences while having an uncertain benefit, if any, to water quality and the environment.

Second, the settlements appear to contemplate **substantial payments to the State that will not be directed by the Legislature, but instead by the Attorney General alone.** At a minimum, this arrangement deserves scrutiny. When litigation produces significant financial recoveries for the

State, transparency and clear guardrails are important to ensure those funds are handled through the proper public process and directed toward addressing the issues that gave rise to the litigation in the first place.

The poultry industry supports thousands of Oklahoma families and plays a critical role in the economy of eastern Oklahoma. Decisions made in the closing stages of this litigation could shape that industry for decades. For that reason, we believe it is important that state leaders be fully aware of the potential consequences and the broader policy questions now being raised.

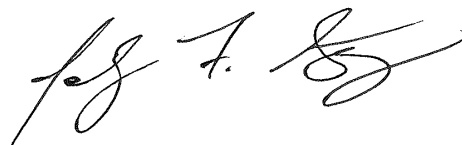
Our goal in raising these concerns is straightforward: Oklahoma should seek a resolution that treats producers fairly and uniformly, protects taxpayers, and respects the roles of each branch of government.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and stand ready to provide any information that may be helpful as the situation continues to develop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blayne Arthur". The script is cursive and fluid.

Blayne Arthur  
Secretary of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Starling". The script is cursive and fluid.

Jeff Starling  
Secretary of Energy and Environment