



KAW NATION

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January 4, 2023

VIA Facsimile (785-296-7973) and certified US Mail

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly
Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 2415
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

I am Kim Jenkins, the elected Chair of the Kaw Nation. The Kaw Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and the original inhabitants of what is now known as the State of Kansas. In fact, the State of Kansas derives its name from the Kaw (Kansa) Nation, which I trust is something you know.

The Kaw Nation is aware of a legislative effort to pass title to the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site near Fairway, Kansas to the present-day "Shawnee Tribe," one of three successors to the historic Shawnee Tribe (the others are the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe). The "Shawnee Indian Mission" is located on the aboriginal and treaty lands of the Kaw. These Kaw lands, as memorialized in the Treaty with the Kansa of June 3, 1825, were recognized as Kaw territory well before the Shawnee people were temporarily relocated to the present-day State of Kansas in the mid-Nineteenth Century, prior to their removal to present-day Oklahoma. The lands which the Shawnee people temporarily occupied were lands stolen from the Kaw people. Any legislative effort related to conveyance of the "Shawnee Indian Mission" should not be undertaken without consultation with the Kaw Nation, the original inhabitants of those lands.

It is our position that the Kaw Nation, as an aboriginal tribe of Kansas, should have first right of refusal of any lands in Kansas historically associated with the Kaw Nation that are under consideration by the State of Kansas for return to any other tribal nation. We believe this matter is an opportunity to strengthen dialog and communication between the Kaw Nation and the State of Kansas.

Again, I would ask you to contact me regarding this matter as we are very concerned with the continuation of an effort by other tribal nations and government entities that ignore the historical presence of the Kaw people in Kansas and our contributions to that history.

I look forward to your expeditious response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Jenkins, Chair
Kaw Nation

cc: Members of the Kansas Legislature
 Kathy Gates, Shawnee Mission Foundation Chair
 Mayor Hepperly, City of Fairway
 Patrick Zollner, Acting Executive Director, KS State Historic Preservation Officer
 Jancita Warrington, Executive Director, KS Tribal Liaison Native American Affairs
 Nathan T. Nogelmeier, City Administrator, City of Fairway