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CHEROKEE NATION[®]
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Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief
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Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief
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July 15, 2024

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Lankford:

I was incredibly disappointed by the roundtable discussion held on Tuesday, July 9 related to emergency shelter operations in Pomona in 2021. False accusations made against the Cherokee Nation and its businesses of such abhorrent behavior are unacceptable and I forcefully reject them.

The allegations raised by roundtable participants are shameful, sickening, and unequivocally false. The Cherokee Nation and its subsidiary entities have not and would never traffic children. We are outraged by the accusation from one individual that we engaged in “state-sanctioned child slavery.” These accusations are wildly inappropriate and lack any basis in reality.

We were honored to perform our responsibilities, and our team worked incredibly hard to protect and serve the interests of every unaccompanied child temporarily in our care. Case managers in Pomona were trained to precisely follow all federal guidelines and policies to vet parents and sponsors, including criminal background checks. Training included specific guidance on anti-trafficking measures and how to spot forgeries and inconsistencies in documentation. During the six months of emergency operations, we immediately flagged every potential safety issue to the United States Department of Health & Human Services so it could be investigated and addressed.

We have a long history of serving the U.S. government. For more than 50 years, thousands of our employees have responded to the needs of customers across the federal government, with honor and distinction, including supporting our service men and women, veterans and their families. We help solve issues around the globe related to national security, information technology and

healthcare. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and principles and are consistently praised for the delivery of our services.

I have a sacred responsibility to stand up for and defend the 468,000 citizens of the Cherokee Nation. We have a well-earned reputation as a trusted partner, and I cannot allow that reputation to be demeaned by these egregious and baseless attacks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Hoskin, Jr." in a cursive style.

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation