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**STATEMENT OF BRAD SMOOT
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION
SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REGARDING 2016 SB 484
MARCH 7, 2016**

Mr. Chairman and Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 484 on behalf of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, one of four resident Indian tribes located within the boundaries of Kansas. The current reservation was established by treaty in 1867, occupying 11 by 11 square miles. This territory is much smaller than the original lands of the Nation which extended to the Pottawatomie County town of St. Marys and the shores of the Kansas River.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is made up of 4700 tribal members. Of this number, nearly 1700 live in Kansas with 800 members living on the reservation. The Nation is guided by its tribal constitution. The tribal government is run by a Tribal Council that functions similarly to a state or county government providing services to the tribal members as well as non-tribal members living on and near the reservation.

Some of the many governmental programs and services provided by the Nation include education; housing, including rental housing and senior citizen housing; and social services, including child and welfare services; an adult services, vocational rehabilitation, behavioral health, drug and alcohol counseling, an elders center and child care. The Nation's government provides police and fire protection, including paramedics, as well as transportation infrastructure and maintenance for roads and bridges. In addition, the Nation has a judicial system which includes a District Court and an Appellate Court.

The commercial entities that are wholly owned by the Nation but separate from its government include Prairie Band Potawatomi Entertainment Corporation, which operates the Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Firekeeper Golf Course, Nation Station, and Subway; and Prairie Band, LLC which includes several subsidiaries: One-Stop convenience store, a propane supplier, health services, construction, and more. These enterprises provide hundreds of jobs to tribal members and non-tribal members alike.

The members of the Tribal Council are: Chairperson – Liana Onnen, Vice-Chair – Joyce Guerrero, Treasurer – Hattie Mitchell, Secretary – Camilla Chouteau, Members – Carrie O'Toole, "Junior" Wahweotten, and Thomas Wabnum.

Chairperson Onnen is here to deliver the Nation's official endorsement of SB 484 but also present are members of the Tribal Council, which I think demonstrates the commitment of the Nation to this tobacco compact and our support for this bill. Thank you and I would be pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.