



OFFICE OF

No. SB 566

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 29, 2019

TIME SIGNED: 3:48 pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY SEVENTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 566:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have vetoed Senate Bill 566.

Senate Bill 566 would allow private commercial hunting guides to operate on lands managed or owned by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (the "Department"). The Oklahoma Constitution limits the use of Department fees, monies, or funds to the "control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of the bird, fish, and game and wildlife resources of the State...and for the administration of the laws pertaining thereto and for no other purpose." (Okla. Const., Art. 26, § 4). The use of Department lands, paid for with fees, monies, or funds, for the monetary gain of private companies is not permitted pursuant to the Oklahoma Constitution. This prohibition is recognized in the Department's administrative rules, which include a general prohibition on the operation of private or non-Departmental business on any Department managed lands.

In addition, significant portions of Department managed lands are not Department owned and are subject to specific terms of the applicable agreements between the Department and the land owners. Senate Bill 566's mandate to allow private commercial hunting guides to operate on Department lands may force the Department to violate these agreements, which could result in the elimination of an unknown amount of acreage currently available to Oklahomans.

For the aforementioned reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 566.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kevin Stitt", written over a horizontal line.