

COMANCHE

Comanche Nation Resolution to Censure Chairman Mark Woommavovah for Officially Endorsing the Westwin Elements Cobalt Refinery in Violation of the Comanche Nation Constitution

WHEREAS, the Comanche Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with a Constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 9, 1967, to safeguard tribal rights, powers, and privileges to improve the economic, moral, education, and health of its members; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of sovereignty of the Comanche Nation, since time immemorial long predates the existence of the Nation, establishes the inherent sovereign powers and rights of the Comanche self-government; and

WHEREAS, Invoking the guidance of Almighty God, we, the members of the Comanche Nation with faith in the purposes of our Supreme Being, with abounding pride in our ancient racial heritage and with the determination to promote, through united efforts, the general well of our tribe and to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights, powers and privileges provided by law, do solemnly ordain and establish this resolution and adopt the following actions; and

WHEREAS, Comanche Nation Chairman is entrusted with upholding and safeguarding the Comanche Nation Constitution (“Constitution”), the laws of the Comanche Nation, and swore an oath of office pledging himself to support and defend the Constitution and to carry out faithfully and impartially the duties of the office to the best of their ability and to promote and protect the best interests of the Comanche Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Nation Business Committee has the inherent right to address Chairman Mark Woommavovah directly and take final action in response to the following:

On August 16, 2023, Chairman Woommavovah officially endorsed the Westwin Elements cobalt refinery and committed the support of the Comanche Nation during a public comment section at the Lawton City Council meeting located at Lawton City Hall, and stated the following:

“First of all, Mayor Council, than you for your leadership and thank you for the invitation to the table. The Comanche Nation appreciates that—what’s good for the City of Lawton and Fort Sill is good for the Comanche Nation. I believe in the leadership in Westwin Elements. I’ve met with them; our gaming CEO has met with them, and we believe in them. And we believe that they are going to add value, not only to our community but to our state. So, City Council, as the leader of a sovereign Nation and as the leader in a community, I support this initiative. Thank you, mayor, and thank you, City Council.” (video transcript of Chairman Mark Woommavovah’s public comment to Lawton City Council on 08/16/2023); and

WHEREAS, no elected official or committeeperson possess the sole authority to provide endorsements or support to an outside entity on behalf of the Comanche Nation without either the

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consent of the Tribal Council or an action taken by the CBC in a legal quorum (Article VI, § 4); and

WHEREAS, the Chairman's failure to disclose any prior knowledge, communications, and private meetings concerning the cobalt refinery development with the Westwin Elements company has significantly eroded trust in his ability to act in the best interest of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, based on the evidence presented in the video, the Chairman demonstrated a clear abuse of the powers and authorities which makes it difficult for the public to trust that the Chairman is making decisions based solely on what is best for the Nation rather than personal gain or favoritism towards specific companies; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, a written request was submitted to the Chairman signed by as many as three (3) members of the Comanche Business Committee for a Special General Council to discuss the Chairman's actions regarding the unauthorized endorsement of Westwin Elements which would have provided Comanche citizens the opportunity to determine if disciplinary actions were warranted; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2024, Chairman Woommavovah issued a single directive to the administration to issue cancellation notices of the Special General Council meeting for the reason that the request was unconstitutional and that CBC members are only authorized to submit a request to the Tribal Chairman to review and determine if it is duly requested; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Woommavovah disregarded the constitutional provision Article V, § 3 that states the tribal chairman shall be required to call a special meeting in the following cases: (b) When he is requested in writing by as many as three members of the business committee, setting forth the purpose of the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the CBC condemns the actions of Chairman Woommavovah which have been used to advance the cause of a company who may cause detrimental harm to the land, water and community within the KCA land base as well as the blatant violation of the Comanche Nation Constitution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Comanche Business Committee hereby issues its second formal censure (Resolution No. 46-2022) to Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah which shall serve as a serious rebuke and indicates disapproval of the Chairman's conduct as well as a reminder of his responsibilities and obligations to the Comanche Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chairman Mark Woommavovah while acting in the capacity of his duties as Chairman is to refrain from engaging with any media outlets, organizations, educational institutions, or companies representing the Comanche Nation unless expressly authorized by the Tribal Council or by legal actions approved by the Comanche Business Committee in a quorum meeting; and

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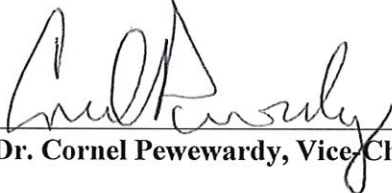
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CBC reaffirms Article XII, § 1 of the Comanche Nation Constitution, which states that the Chairman shall **only** sign necessary papers and instruments when so authorized by the Comanche Tribal Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that this resolution shall be published promptly in its entirety on the Nation's website and tribal newspaper, Lawton Constitution and social media outlets for no less than thirty (30) days; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Comanche Business Committee Does Hereby Authorize this Resolution for such intent.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted a regular meeting of the Comanche Nation Business Committee held on the 2nd of March, 2024, at the Comanche Tribal Complex, Lawton, Oklahoma by a majority vote of 6 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining, a quorum being present.



Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:



Robert Tippeconnie, Secretary/Treasurer