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

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 1703:

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 1703.

Senate Bill 1703 adds the University Hospital Trust (UHT) to a list of public entities that are eligible for sales tax exemptions. The measure also allows the UHT the ability to extend their exemption to a contractor with whom they have a public contract. Though I am supportive of the great hospitals in our state that care for Oklahomans every day, this is not the right time to grow the list of tax exemptions that will end up causing tough budget times to be more difficult over the next few years. The cost to the state for such an exemption would be an estimated decrease in state sales tax collections of $11,125,421 and would make next year’s projected one billion dollar revenue shortfall even larger. This change would also negatively impact sales tax collections by millions of dollars at the local level. Further, there is no language in the current bill that specifies how this money is to be spent by the UHT.

For the aforementioned reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1703.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

[Signature]

By Becky Welch
Date/Time: May 18, 2020 4:37 pm

Delivered to Senate
5/18/2020 4:35 pm

RECEIVED
MAY 18 2020
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE
AS 4:43 pm