

## DESIGNATION OF OKLAHOMA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

On this day, June 28, 2017, I, Commissioner Jim Reese of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry hereby designate the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, a nonprofit commodity organization, as representative of the producers of cattle and authorized to conduct a state assessment referendum pursuant to Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 5-63.3, based on the following:

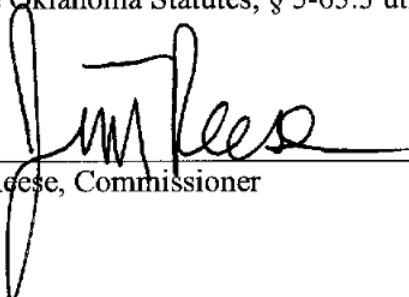
Petitions were filed on behalf of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association on May 15, 2017, for approval to conduct a state assessment referendum pursuant to the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act, 2 O.S. §§ 5-63.1 *et seq.* The petitions were found to be sufficient and contained the following:

- A. the name of the nonprofit organization that will conduct the referendum, namely the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association;
- B. the reasons for and the purposes of the state assessment;
- C. the federally approved commodity board that will be designated by the nonprofit commodity organization as the recipient of the state assessment, namely the Oklahoma Beef Council;
- D. the maximum state assessment levied pursuant to an election; and
- E. the names and number of positions held by the nonprofit commodity organization on the federally approved commodity board.

A review was conducted of the petition and within fifteen (15) days of the petition's receipt, a public hearing was scheduled for June 14, 2017, in the Boardroom of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, located on the first floor at 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Comments were received at the public hearing in support of the petition. One commenter provided the history of the referendum request process and outlined the voting procedure. Another described how the legal requirements of the statute were met. Another commenter indicated the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association is representative of cattle producers. Finally, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau stated the organization is in favor of the referendum and provided written comments. Although no comments were received opposing the petition, one commenter requested that an unbiased fact sheet identifying both the pros and cons of the referendum be provided to cattle producers prior to the referendum. American Farmers and Ranchers provided written comments supporting the referendum. Notification to interested commodity producers was provided by the following methods:

- A. a public notice posted on the home page of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry's website, [www.ag.ok.gov](http://www.ag.ok.gov);
- B. a public notice provided in various Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association publications and through press releases to agriculture reporters and state wide;
- C. a public notice posted by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association on their website, [www.okcattlemen.org](http://www.okcattlemen.org); and
- D. members of the checkoff working group provided public hearing notices to their members.

I hereby determine that, on the basis of testimony presented at the public hearing, the petitioning organization is representative of the producers of cattle in the state of Oklahoma and that the petition conforms to the purposes and provisions of the Oklahoma Commodity Research Enhancement Act, and I designate the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association as authorized to conduct a state assessment referendum pursuant to Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 5-63.3 utilizing the process outlined in testimony at the public hearing.

  
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Jim Reese, Commissioner

June 28, 2017