

Testimony of Honorable Brent Brassfield
Mayor, City of Miami
Before the House Committee on Natural Resources
February 20th, 2008
Miami, Oklahoma

Miami Oklahoma experienced a major plant closing in the mid '80s. Unemployment rates rose into the teens. There existed a mindset of panic within the community. This stagnant economic condition existed until our local tribes began extensive economic development, namely tribal gaming. Currently our local tribes are our largest employer.

I, as well as many others testifying, have attempted to educate ourselves on the proposals in regard to Class II versus Class III gaming. I am of the belief that if the proposed regulations are implemented, northeast Oklahoma, and this whole region, will be severely economically crippled.

Our future is tourism and recreation in this part of the state. Our studies reveal tribal gaming facilities are pulling in over 2000 cars per day off the interstate and into our community. Obviously any attempt to lessen the ability of our local tribes to generate revenue is going to have a tremendous adverse effect on our local economy.

Why is there an attempt to fix something that is not broken?