

May 6, 2013

Chief Baker:

As a member of the Cabinet, I am informing you that I am taking a leave of absence.

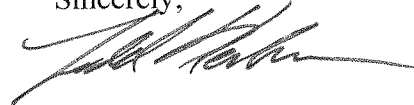
As you know, alcoholism has been the scourge of Indian Country for generations and no one, regardless of education, position or faith is immune. The support of my wife, children, extended family and staff, makes it possible for me to tell the Cherokee people that I struggle with this difficult disease.

While I remain committed to serving the Nation that I love, I realize my focus should be on my sobriety, health and family. I am taking this leave of absence to get treatment.

I will keep the best interest of the Cherokee people and the Cherokee Nation in mind throughout this process. Deputy Attorney General Nason Morton will lead the attorney general's office in the interim.

I ask that my family's privacy is respected and for prayers as we begin my recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Hembree", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Hembree
Attorney General