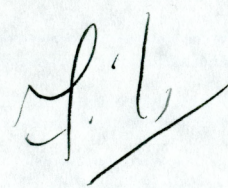


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April 11, 1994

Wilma Mankiller, Chairman  
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465



Dear Wilma,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the people of the Cherokee Nation as well as for Native Americans across the country. I was able to watch your presentation on Freedom Forum which aired on April 9, 1994 in my area. I truly enjoyed hearing you. I have never had the pleasure to meet you but I have heard a lot of wonderful things of you, particularly of your accomplishments as an Indian woman and as a leader.

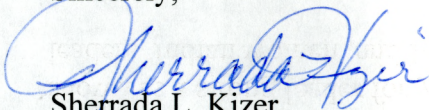
As each of us are faced with the difficulties of life and various influences around us, it is most rewarding to see a few Indian women today who can truly stand up, without pretense, without glamour and selfish ambition, and to recognize such women by their accomplishments of hard work and determination - I feel Wilma, you are a woman to be reckoned with and I applaud you for all you have done for the Cherokee Nation and Native Americans. By the example you have shown as a strong leader for your own Tribe, you have become an example to other Indian leaders, Indian women and Indian people.

I truly appreciate the stand you have taken which you expressed on the show regarding alcoholism among Native American's - you shared that as a leader you set the example and to be out drinking around and then expecting your people to be different would be setting a double standard - I agree, the example starts at the top, yet many leaders in Indian country fail to make a difference by setting a clean and sober lifestyle.

I am sad to hear you are retiring from your position as Chief of the Cherokee Nation. I wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors with the Ford Foundation and I am positive that you will be a great asset to their cause and efforts. Thank you again for all you have represented and taken a stand for to benefit your own Tribe and Indian people across the country.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Sherrada L. Kizer  
Member of the Washoe Tribe  
of Nevada & California

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