



## CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

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Gerald Torres, Nominee  
Assistant Attorney General for  
Natural Resources and the Environment  
Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue and 10th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Gerald,

Thank you so much for arranging for us to meet with you, your wife and son and Attorney General Janet Reno. I look forward to seeing you again. Ms. Reno is just exactly what the country needs right now - a consummate public servant who wants to do what is right for the children and youth of this country, as well as for people who have traditionally not been well served by the Justice Department. This country needs Janet Reno right now and I am so glad we have her.

I was also impressed by the fact that she had the wisdom to choose you to assist her. Your commitment to creating a sense of order and purpose out of the divisions within your area of administration is admirable.

If you recall I spoke with you about the effort of the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations to resolve tribal disputes with the federal government concerning the tribally owned Arkansas Riverbed in Eastern Oklahoma. I know you were not thoroughly briefed on this issue at the time. I hope you have had a chance to review our material. Let me bring you up to date on our efforts to move the settlement proposal forward.

The Settlement Act will be introduced in the House by Congressman Mike Synar as soon as we are able to achieve consensus on the bill from the affected agencies. Last week I spent the better part of the week in Washington visiting with members of Congress and administration representatives about the Riverbed Settlement Act. Following is a partial list of support we have received:

(1) The support of both Senators from Oklahoma, Republican Don Nickles and Democrat Senator David Boren. In fact, we were encouraged to put together the settlement bill by these two senators.