



## CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher  
Deputy Chief

May 12, 1994

Ms. Sharon Blackwell  
Office of the Field Solicitor  
Tulsa Office, Southwest Region  
P. O. Box 3156  
Tulsa, OK 74101

Dear Ms. Blackwell:

On Tuesday, May 10, 1994, I was visited by Mr. Ron Sparkman and Don Greenfeather. Mr. Sparkman is part owner of one of the two remaining Shawnee allotments. As you are aware, that property is in the final stages of probate proceedings and the family is again looking for ways to generate income either through gaming or tax-free tobacco sales.

At one point the Cherokee Nation argued that it may have jurisdiction over this land. We informally spoke with Tim Vollman about our assertion but we did not request a formal opinion regarding our proposal to assert jurisdiction. I am now requesting a formal solicitor's opinion on the issue of whether the Cherokee Nation has jurisdiction over the two Shawnee allotments in Kansas.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief