



G.W.Y.D DBP
CHEROKEE NATION®

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Chad "Cornassel" Smith
Principal Chief

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Joe Grayson, Jr.
Deputy Principal Chief

July 31, 2009

Mr. Gary Ridley, Director
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
200 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Mr. Ridley,

On behalf of Cherokee Nation, I am pleased to write a letter of support for your efforts to construct an elevated railroad track through your community. Elevating the railroad over the six at-grade crossings will help alleviate traffic congestion and will also improve response time for emergency vehicles en route to both Claremore Regional Hospital and Claremore Indian Hospital.

The current layout of the tracks has delayed ambulances and other safety vehicles crossing the tracks during emergencies and life threatening situations. An elevated railroad track will help ensure that precious minutes are not wasted in emergency situations and will improve the safety of the community.

Please feel free to contact my office if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Chad Smith
Principal Chief