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August 17, 1972

Honorable Tom Steed  
Member of Congress  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Tom:

Thanks for your kind letter of August 14th and for your promise to work with Speaker Albert to obtain early consideration of H. R. 15598, as amended.

It was my understanding that the Bill would sail through for the earliest approval by the President. The State is still strongly indicating its intention to seek Certiorari from the Circuit Court decision of June 1st, 1972. The Cherokees are riding though the legislative matter with the Choctaw assurance, as well as Speaker Albert and yourself, that if an appeal is made to the Supreme Court it will not react unfavorably to this Congressional action.

As you know, this has been my sole position, *other than the amendment* in this matter from the start. I hope the State is bluffing and somehow feel that they are simply delaying the day when they will have to disgorge the substantial sum of money in thier possession.

This morning I received in the mail a second Motion to Extend the Stay of Mandate to allow further time until September 25, 1972 to apply for a Writ in the Supreme Court.

Further, I would like to know how you are coming along in your campaign and trust that all is well. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Earl*  
EARL BOYD PIERCE  
General Counsel for  
The Cherokee Nation

EBP:lmw

cc: Honorable W. W. Keeler  
Honorable Virgil N. Harrington  
Mr. B. Bob Stopp  
Mr. Andrew C. Wilcoxon  
Mr. Joe Muskrat  
Honorable Paul M. Niebell  
Mr. Mike Yaroschuk  
Mr. Lon Kile