



August 13, 2009

The Honorable Archie Mason, Jr.  
Speaker of the Osage Congress  
Osage Nation

Dear Speaker Mason:

Thank you for your time on July 31, 2009, to discuss the importance of preserving our historic relationship with the people of Montauban, France, who, as you know, have invited the Osage Nation to visit them to commemorate a number of historic anniversaries which include: 800th Anniversary of the Crusades against the Cathars; 120th Anniversary of the Rescue of Osages Stranded in France; 20th Anniversary of the Occitania-Oklahoma Association; and 10th Anniversary of the Montauban-Pawhuska Sister City Relationship.

In response to the invitation from the people of Montauban, and in accord with our conversation, I invite the Osage Congress to consider joining the Executive Branch and other Osage entities in forming a delegation to France to participate in commemorating these anniversaries. This visit would mark another historic moment in our ongoing relationship with this part of the world and further strengthens and preserves our international cultural associations.

Additionally, and in accord with the intent of sister city international cultural exchanges, we hope to expand the ties from purely cultural and historical to economic and educational as well. Accordingly, we are determining our delegation participants based on the cultural and historic, economic and tourism, and educational opportunities that could be explored during such an official delegation's visit.

Moreover, we are arranging meetings through the U.S. Consulate in the Montauban region, as well as through our own contacts in Paris to discuss many of the following issues and potential partnerships: Energy Sector Economic Development; Tourism Programs; Economic Diversification and Import/Export Opportunities; and Education, Music, Language and Cultural Exchanges.

In addition to organizing our delegation from the Executive Branch, I am prepared to assign my staff the additional duties required for coordinating all logistics for the entire Osage delegation to better keep track of us, and increase the likelihood that we encounter minimal travel inconveniences. I ask that you work with your colleagues to determine who may be willing to join us on this important cultural exchange and economic development mission. Please be aware, we are asking all separate and independent Osage entities to be responsible for funding their portions of the delegation.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and collaboration in responding to the request that the Osage Nation join the people of Montauban during these historic commemorations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gray", is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Jim Gray Principal Chief".

Jim Gray  
Principal Chief

JG/hb/cr