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Department of the Interior
February 9th 1858.

Sir,

Your communication of the 29th ultimo enclosing copy of a letter from J. B. Chapman Esq to Hon: J. A. Shroder, in regard to procuring the right of way for the construction of a Rail Road through the Cherokee Country, and reporting the facts in relation to the attempt of the said Chapman to purchase land from the Osages for the same purpose, has been received and considered.

So far as the Cherokees are concerned, it will be sufficient to inform Agent Butler of Mr Chapmans purpose, and direct him to communicate at once with your Office, in the event of further negotiations being attempted with the Cherokees.

You will please write fully to Agent Dorn, instructing him to warn the Osages against attempting any sale of their lands to Mr Chapman or any other person. You will also instruct him to prohibit Mr Chapman and his associates from entering the Osage territory or holding talks with Indians. You will also communicate with Mr Chapman himself (if possible) and inform him that