



## **Desk of William (Bill) Thorpe**

**June 17, 2017**

**Dear Gene,**

**Thank you for your pursuit of this monumentally important project. It marks the beginning of returning the Jim Thorpe legend to the state and the tribes of California.**

**My brother Richard and I are the only surviving children of Jim Thorpe. In the Native American tradition, and as the oldest living son, I speak for my family. Our father's accomplishments in life are a great source of pride to us and we honor his name. As I reach the years in my life that I cannot do as many things as I would like, nor travel the way I did as a young man, I look to others to help pursue and continue the legend of Jim Thorpe for future generations. It is our desire to find people within Native American Tribes to help continue the preservation of the Jim Thorpe and his monumental deeds.**

**Gene, you are one of those people and it is with great pleasure I ask you to work with my designated representative, Gigi Tannahill, in establishing the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games in California and surrounding areas.**

**It is with great pleasure, we establish our relationship, with you as the Director of the Jim Thorpe All American Games, California.**

**I would like to thank you for taking the first steps to raise money to prepare for the hosting of the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, California, by arranging the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games meeting and fund raising, Gigi and I will look forward to attending the first organizational meeting of the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, California.**

**It is our pleasure to support you in this endeavor and look forward to seeing the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, California begin to shape up and to take place in 2016. Jim Thorpe was not only incomparable as an athlete but also as a man!**

**He was always one of my greatest heroes who became even greater in my mind and my heart after his death. It was privilege as his son to see, first hand, the extent of his generous nature and his love for his race, his tribe, children and most of all his family.**

**I will lend whatever hand I can to ensure the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, California to completion and success and believe this event will not only show a very compelling aspect of our father's story, but also shine a light for future generation of pride while expressing a view that tribal children can accomplish many great things through sports.**

**The Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, California, would mean the world to our family and to Native American people throughout this country. This event will help reintroduce to the tribes of California and other Native Americans, the man, the hero, the legend and our dad, Jim Thorpe.**

**Again, on behalf of my family, I wish to thank you, Gene Dixon and your contact for their support and look forward to continued support as the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games; California develops and becomes a reality.**

**With utmost Sincerity,**

*William Bill Thorpe*