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April 13, 1998

Ron Guenther
Director of Athletics
University of Illinois
1700 S. Fourth Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Ron:

On behalf of the 16 members of the Western Athletic Conference, this letter is in support of the efforts of Paul Feller (Pro Sports International) in his attempt to resurrect the Freedom Bowl.

As we have discussed before, the WAC along with the Pacific-10 Conference, recognize the need for additional bowl games to be played in the western part of the country. This proposed game for the San Francisco area would certainly provide greater opportunities for student-athletes but also for college football fans in the West.

I realize the hesitancy you and the NCAA Football Certification Subcommittee may have in granting immediate certification for the Freedom Bowl so that the game could be played in December of 1998. However, it appears that Mr. Feller has everything in place, including the necessary letter of credit, for this year. Unfortunately, though, it is my understanding that if the game is not played in 1998, the necessary ingredients (corporate sponsors, stadium lease, county/city support) may not be there for 1999. That, of course, would be disappointing for all concerned.

I appreciate your willingness to give this request serious consideration. Good luck with your upcoming meetings and please don't hesitate to call with any questions or if you wish to discuss this in greater detail.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl Benson".

Karl Benson

cc: WAC Athletic Directors
NCAA Football Certification Subcommittee
Mark Jones, NCAA

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