



ITG News

Keeping First Nations Informed

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Scam Alert

Beware of Bogus Issuance Requesting Form W-8 BEN

Several tribes have received a fax issuance on what appears to be an IRS letterhead, informing them that they are non-resident aliens and are exempt from federal taxation. The information in the letter is not only incorrect, but the letter itself is bogus.

This letter is not from the Internal Revenue Service, and you should not follow any of the instructions contained within the letter, nor complete or submit the form that is attached to it. The letter is a scam being perpetrated to attempt to secure financial information from unsuspecting individuals. In addition, the attachment to the letter is not a legitimate Form W-8 BEN, as evidenced by numerous typographic errors, including referring to our country as the "United State" of America. The fax number does not belong to the IRS, and all IRS e-mail addresses end in the suffix "@irs.gov", which is not the suffix used in the e-mail address in the letter.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of this matter. Please take all reasonable steps to ensure your tribal members are not victimized by this scam.

If you have any questions, please contact Indian Tribal Governments Manager Kenneth Voght at 716-686-4860, or via e-mail at tege.itg.schemes@irs.gov.