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September 24, 2008

Lillie F. Ragan, Assistant Branch Chief
Policy Branch, Food Distribution Division
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 506
Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594

RE: Comments on Changes to the Allocation of FDPIR Administrative Grants

Dear Ms. Ragan:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the recent changes to the allocation of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) administrative grants to Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) and State agencies (SA) made for the 2008 federal funding year. The increases to administrative funding nationally in 2008 coupled with the modified funding formula which allowed funding negotiations to continue at the tribal level resulting in sufficient funding levels for all tribes and the state agency in Montana.

I want to thank USDA for its willingness to listen, take comments, and provide adequate data to stake holders for the many funding methodology scenarios so evaluations could be made and individual comments formulated. Specifically I wish to thank Mr. Salazar for his deliberations and decision for a blended funding formula and for his support for additional administrative funding for the program.

This has truly been a cooperative and collaborative process where all sides have had input. Cooperation between USDA, the FDPIR Funding Work Group, tribal organizations and state agencies along with funding support for these changes by Congress has resulted in a very positive outcome to the complex issue of fair and adequate FDPIR administrative funding allocations nationally.

We in Montana support the new funding formula and its continued use in 2009 along with continued USDA and Congressional support for adequate FDPIR administrative funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forest Farris".

Forest Farris
MT Food Distribution Section Chief

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