



THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

AUG 19 2010

Dear Tribal Leader:

On November 5, 2009, President Obama made an historic commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes pursuant to Executive Order 13175. Secretary Salazar has echoed the President's dedication to regular and meaningful consultation with tribes, and is taking action to assess and improve existing consultation practices with Indian tribes. I am pleased to announce the Department of the Interior's Tribal Consultation Team (Team) whose focus will be to draft a proposed consultation policy for the Interior.

Tribal representatives from all regions and Federal officials from across Interior comprise the Team's membership (list of Team members enclosed). In creating the Team, tribal leaders identified representatives with the appropriate skills for representing regional and issue-specific concerns. Like tribal representatives, the Federal officials on the team were selected for their knowledge in this unique process. Both delegate and alternate representatives will contribute to the Team's work over the coming months.

During the next few months, Interior's work on implementing the President's Executive Memorandum of November 5, 2009, will accelerate and heavily involve the Team's efforts. All of the Team's members will be involved in the drafting process and there will be regular communication with regional and tribal interests. A public comment and review period will follow the drafting process.

We anticipate that tribal leaders will have an opportunity to review the draft Departmental consultation policy in early fall, before the formal public comment period. In the meantime, please direct any questions or concerns on the Team's work to Mr. Paul Tsosie, Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at (202) 208-7163.

The Team's service to improve Federal procedures on governmental relations with Indian tribes will have a profound and positive impact on how the Department of the Interior formulates policy in years to come. The contribution the Team makes will be invaluable to improving how the United States meets its responsibilities to our Country's tribal nations. I am confident the Team will produce a consultation policy that honors tribal sovereignty and self-determination while strengthening Federal-tribal relations.

Thank you for the contributions you have made on behalf of Indian Country, and for those you will make in the future.

Sincerely,

Laura Davis
Associate Deputy Secretary

Alaska Region Delegate

Edward K. Thomas, Village Delegate
Village of Kasaan

Eastern Region Delegate

Brian Patterson, Clan Representative
Oneida Nation

Eastern Oklahoma Region Delegate

Glenna Wallace, Chief
Eastern Shawnee

Great Plains Delegate

Rodney Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Midwest Region Delegate

Erma Vizner, Chairwoman
White Earth Ojibwe

Navajo Region Delegate

Marcelino Gomez, Asst. Atty. General
Navajo Nation

Northwest Region Delegate

Chief J. Allen, Chairman
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Pacific Region Delegate

Robert Smith, Chairman
Pala Band of Indians

Rocky Mountain Region Delegate

Ivan Posey, Business Council Chairman
Eastern Shoshone

Southern Plains Region Delegate

Robert Tippeconnie, Secretary/Treasurer
Comanche Nation

Southwest Region Delegate

Norman J. Cooyate, Governor
Pueblo of Zuni

Alaska Region Alternate

Evelyn F. Thomas, President
Crooked Creek Tribe

Eastern Region Alternate

Marjorie Colebut-Jackson, Council Member
Mashantucket Pequot Nation

Eastern Oklahoma Region Alternate

Tom John, Administrator
Chickasaw Nation

Great Plains Alternate

Charles Murphy, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Midwest Region Alternate

Derek Bailey, Chairman
Grand Traverse Band

Navajo Region Alternate

Veronica Blackhat, Nation Attorney
Navajo Nation

Northwest Region Alternate

Harry Smiskin, Chairman
Yakama Nation

Pacific Region Alternate

Archie Super, Chairman
Karuk Tribe

Rocky Mountain Region Alternate

Jonathan Windy Boy, Vice-Chairman
Chippewa Cree

Southern Plains Region Alternate

Steve Ortiz, Chairman
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

Southwest Region Alternate

Gary Hayes, Vice-Chairman
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Western Region Delegate
Mervin K. Wright, Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute

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