



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Tribal Justice

Room 2318, Main Justice Building
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

(202) 514-8812
FAX (202) 514-9078

June 8, 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am honored to invite you to government-to-government consultations with the United States Department of Justice on whether the Department should adopt a formal policy that would memorialize its practice of enforcing federal wildlife laws in a manner that facilitates the ability of members of federally recognized tribes to use the feathers and other parts of eagles and other migratory birds for tribal cultural and religious purposes.

The Department of Justice first announced that it was considering such a policy in a document requesting tribal input on the proposed policy, which the White House sent to all tribal leaders on October 21, 2011. The Department received very helpful and significant tribal comments on the proposed policy, as well as several requests for further consultation. The upcoming consultations will be an opportunity to build on the tribal input that the Department received on the proposed policy and to further address specific issues raised in the comments the Department received.

This letter is being sent along with a framing paper that provides background on the proposed policy as well as a summary of comments that the Department has received so far and the Department's responses to those comments. The Department welcomes tribal comments on any aspect of the proposed policy.

The Department of Justice will be conducting both in-person and telephonic consultations. The in-person session will be held on July 19, 2012, in Tama, Iowa, at a meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes. The telephonic consultations will be held on June 22, 2012, from 2:00- 4:00 p.m. E.D.T., and on July 11, 2012, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. E.D.T. The Department will also accept written comments through August 1, 2012.

In addition, Department representatives will be attending the Mid-Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians in Lincoln, Nebraska, to participate in a panel on the proposed policy, which will be held on June 18, 2012, from 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Logistics

If you would like to participate in the in-person consultation session or one of the telephonic consultation sessions, please contact the Department's Office of Tribal Justice at (202) 514-8812 or at eagles@usdoj.gov to register.

Because space may be limited, tribal leaders will be registered in the order that their responses are received. The Office of Tribal Justice will provide information on how to participate in the session after you register.

If the Department cannot accommodate all tribal leaders who would like to participate, we will schedule an additional telephonic consultation.

The Department of Justice will accept written comments any time before the close of business on August 1, 2012. Please send comments to:

Email: eagles@usdoj.gov


Mail: United States Department of Justice
Office of Tribal Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., #2318
Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax: (202) 514-9078

If you have questions about the consultations or wish to discuss the proposed policy further, please contact the Department's Office of Tribal Justice at (202) 514-8812.

The Department hopes you will be able to participate in these important government-to-government consultation sessions and looks forward to continuing to work together on these issues.

Sincerely,


for Tracy Toulou
Director
Office of Tribal Justice