



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 29 2012

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce that the proposed rule implementing the Buy Indian Act is being published in the Federal Register. The Buy Indian Act provides Indian Affairs with the authority to set-aside procurement contracts for qualified Indian-owned businesses. This proposed rule describes uniform administrative procedures that Indian Affairs will use in all of its locations to encourage procurement of goods and services from eligible Indian economic enterprises, as authorized by the Buy Indian Act.

As you are aware, this rule has been in development for decades. The Bureau proposed this rule in the Federal Register on several prior occasions, but never succeeded in publishing a final rule. In 2010, we distributed a new draft of the rule and held three consultation sessions in preparation for the updated proposed rule. The enclosed proposed rule incorporates the feedback received during those sessions.

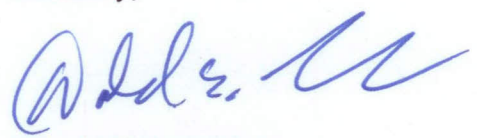
Given the broad support for this rule you expressed during this round of 2010 consultations, we are committed to finalizing the rule by the end of the calendar year. I invite you to provide written comments on this proposed rule to consultation@bia.gov by September 17, 2012, and/or attend one of the following consultation sessions:

Date	Time	Venue
August 14, 2012	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	National Indian Programs Training Center 1011 Indian School Road, NW, Suite 254 Albuquerque, NM 87104 (505) 563-5400
August 15, 2012	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Holiday Inn Grand (In conjunction with NADC Conference 2012) 5500 Midland Road Billings, MT 59101 (406) 248-7701
August 21, 2012	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Hilton Sacramento Arden West 2200 Harvard Street Sacramento, CA 95815 (916) 924-4900
August 23, 2012	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Mystic Lake Casino Hotel 2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard Prior Lake, MN 55372 (952) 445-9000

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If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Jonodev Chaudhuri, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Laverdure
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure