



SEP 16 2016

Dear Great Plains Area Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On June 2, the Indian Health Service (IHS) initiated a Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Session in the IHS Great Plains Area on the organization and structure of the IHS Great Plains Area. I am writing to inform you that the IHS is extending the comment period for your written comments until **Wednesday, November 30, 2016**.

Since June, the IHS has held four joint Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer Sessions with Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian organizations in the Great Plains Area. Tribal Leaders requested the establishment of a Great Plains Area Tribal-Federal workgroup to address funding issues related to Great Plains Area Tribal shares and also asked for additional time to comment while attending the August 30 consultation held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The IHS requests comments and recommendations on the organization and structure of the IHS Great Plains Area Office. Specific topics may include, but are not limited to, the following: the geographic location of the IHS Great Plains Area Office; centralization or further decentralization of Area Office services; staffing; budget; local involvement; transparency and oversight; partnerships; accountability; monitoring; and how the Area Office can support the Service Units.

Please provide your written comments as instructed below. Thank you for your support and partnership. I look forward to hearing your input on the state of the IHS Great Plains Area Office.

Sincerely,

/Mary Smith/
Mary Smith
Principal Deputy Director

Tribal Leaders, please send your comments by e-mail to:	consultation@ihs.gov Subject line: State of the Great Plains Area Office
Urban Indian Organizations, please send your comments by e-mail to:	urbanconfer@ihs.gov Subject line: State of the Great Plains Area Office
Send comments by postal mail to:	Ms. Roselyn Tso Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes Indian Health Service 5600 Fishers Lane Mail Stop: 08E20 Rockville, MD 20857 ATTN: State of the Great Plains Area Office