



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 09 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

During the upcoming National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 2014 Mid-Year Conference, the Department of the Interior (Department) will host several consultation sessions. I hope that you will be able to join senior officials from the Department and me to discuss long-term solutions for contract support costs (CSC), the recently published proposed rule regarding land into trust acquisitions in the State of Alaska, and draft revisions to the Housing Improvement Program (HIP). I have purposefully scheduled the consultation sessions to intersect with the schedules of tribal leaders who will attend the NCAI conference.

CSC: On Sunday, June 8, 2014, from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. the Department will host a session to identify CSC long-term solutions. This session follows a series of meetings with tribes that began after the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act's requirement to consult with tribes on CSC matters. A *Federal Register* Notice of February 21, 2014 (79 FR 9915) restates the congressional directive for the agencies to consult in order to consider a standardized approach that streamlines contract negotiation processes, provides consistent and clear cost categories, and ensures efficient and timely cost documentation for the agencies and the tribes. This session will include a presentation of the Department CSC working group's most recent work and the Department's plans for summer 2014 sessions.

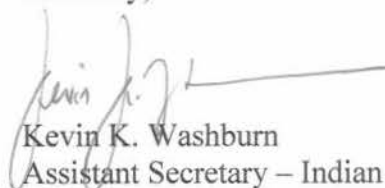
Land Into Trust In Alaska: On Monday, June 9, 2014, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. the Department will consult on a proposed rule regarding trust acquisitions in Alaska. A *Federal Register* Notice of May 1, 2014 (79 FR 24648) proposes a rule to delete a provision in the Department's land-into-trust regulations, which excludes from the scope of the regulations, with one exception, land acquisitions in trust in the State of Alaska. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted through Monday, June 30, 2014. I have sent a similar letter inviting Alaska Native Corporation representatives to participate in this June 9 session.

HIP Regulations. On Monday, June 9, and Tuesday, June 10, 2014, from 12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m., the Department will be hosting listening sessions on draft revisions to HIP regulations at 25 CFR 256. I encourage you to attend one or both of these brown bag sessions to provide input on any revisions that you believe would be appropriate for the HIP regulations.

Consultation and collaboration with tribal governments in the development of Federal policies and practices improve how the Department meets its obligations to Indian Country. The sessions on June 8 and 9 are free and registration at NCAI's Conference is not required to attend. The sessions will take place in the Egan Center located at 555 West Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The sessions will not be available via teleconference. A court reporter will transcribe all comments at both sessions, and the Department will make the transcripts available on its website.

Additionally, the Department's website provides important information about its consultation and collaboration efforts. You may find supplemental information for the upcoming consultation sessions at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm>. The Department is always interested in your views on its consultation practices. You may email your comments to consultation@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin K. Washburn", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs