



February 23, 2026

Chief William F. Smith  
Chairman  
Alaska Native Health Board  
4000 Ambassador Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Chairman Smith:

Thank you for your February 10, 2026-dated letter requesting an in-person Tribal Consultation in Alaska with the Indian Health Service (IHS) during the week of the pre-negotiations.

The IHS will grant your request. We agree that it is important to meet in Alaska to better understand the Alaska model and the needs of the Alaska Tribal Health System. We appreciate the opportunity to engage directly with Tribal Leaders during pre-negotiations.

We are available either in the afternoon on Monday, March 16, 2026, or in the morning on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Our staff will coordinate with the Alaska Native Health Board staff to confirm the date, time, and location.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Clayton W. Fulton  
Chief of Staff  
(Delegated Authority of the IHS Director)