



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

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Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service
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5600 Fishers Lane
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Rockville, MD 20857

Subject: CSC "97/3 Method" Tribal Consultation

Dear Acting Director Weahkee:

On behalf of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, I write to provide comments in response to your Dear Tribal Leader Letter of April 13 regarding the IHS CSC Policy pertaining to the 97/3 Method.

We recommend that the IHS reinstate the original language agreed to by Tribes and the IHS in October 2016. That language took into account the differing positions of the Agency and Tribes but attempted to strike a compromise that would facilitate continued Contracting and Compacting.

In the alternative, we would be comfortable with the revised language recommended by the IHS CSC Workgroup on March 6-7. To the extent the Tribe and the Agency have previously negotiated and agreed to a specific level of duplication reflected in a prior finding agreement, a renegotiation of that agreement seems reasonable.

We do not agree that the IHS should be able to force all Tribes into a detailed line-by-line negotiation when a reasonable alternative like the 97/3 method exists. That appears to be the goal of each of the two Agency alternatives so we reject those emphatically.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Battise
Tribal Council Chairperson
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas