

Appendix B: Sample Invitation Letter

**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS LAND MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS WORKING SESSION
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, BIA TRAINING CENTER, OCTOBER 13, 2011**

Sept. 16, 2011

Dear Governor _____ :

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is in the process of reviewing and revising its land use and management regulations, portions of which are confusing, complex and out of date. The BIA is committed to working directly with stakeholders to streamline the regulations, reduce confusion and enhance tribal self-governance wherever possible. This letter concerns a new process the BIA is undertaking to work with individuals affected by the regulations prior to revising them. The current effort addresses four of these regulations: agricultural leases, grazing, right-of-way and the possible creation of a separate trespass regulation.

In an effort to better understand these regulations and the problems they create, and to hear recommendations from a variety of experts in the field, the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action (RACA) is convening five collaborative and intensive work sessions throughout Indian Country in August, September and October 2011. Each work session is divided into two days: the first day is for BIA staff only and will lead into the main event on the second day to include tribal stakeholders in addition to BIA staff. Each day of the work sessions will cover the same information and materials.

Building on the 2006 revision process, participants will work through each regulation with RACA staff to discuss issues, identify needed changes and suggest specific revisions. Work session invitees include former and current BIA land management staff, attorneys with relevant experience, tribal realty specialists and land managers, and individual landowners who have navigated the process. These work sessions are the first step in a process that will eventually include government-to-government tribal consultation and public review of the revised regulations.

You and/or your staff members who regularly work on these issues are invited to attend an informal workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 13, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help inform RACA and the BIA as they move forward. We know that your experience and ideas will help us to make these regulations both more efficient and more responsive. Since attendance is limited, please let us know by Friday, September 30 if you can attend. And of course you are welcome to call or email if you have questions about the process or this event.

Sincerely,



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Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action
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RSVP by Sept. 30: Jason Hurd, phone: 928-607-7156; email: jason@intrinsicinfo.com

Attachments:

- Work session agenda, including logistics information
- Matrices showing possible changes to current regulations