



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

**JUN 21 2013**

Dear Tribal Leader:

For the past several months, we have been reviewing the Department's process for acknowledging an Indian tribe, as set forth at 25 C.F.R. Part 83, "Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe" (Part 83 Process). As a result, we have developed a preliminary discussion draft of potential revisions to Part 83 to improve the process and maintain the integrity of the acknowledgment decisions. The discussion draft is available for your review at:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm>.

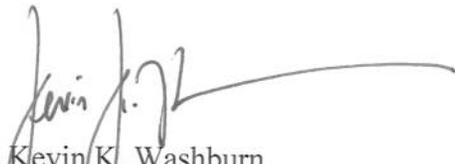
We will be hosting several tribal consultation sessions to obtain your input on the discussion draft. Please refer to the end of this letter for details on the dates and locations. Each of these sessions will be followed by public sessions at which the public may provide comment.

We also welcome your written comments on the preliminary discussion draft. Please provide us with any written comments no later than August 16, 2013, via email at [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov); or via mail to Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action – Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, MS 4141-MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

Following this first round of consultation, we will review the comments received and then prepare a proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register. This will open a second round of consultation and the formal comment period to allow for further refining of the regulations prior to publication as a final rule.

We look forward to your input. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elizabeth K. Appel, Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action – Indian Affairs at (202) 208-7163 or [elizabeth.appel@bia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.appel@bia.gov). Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Consultation Information  
Discussion Draft of Potential Revisions to 25 CFR Part 83  
(Procedures for establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe)

Please note that all times listed below are local.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Venue</b>
July 23, 2013	9 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Canyonville, Oregon	Seven Feathers Casino Resort 146 Chief Miwaleta Lane Canyonville, OR 97417 (541) 839-1111
July 25, 2013	9 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Solvang, California	Hotel Corque 400 Alisal Road Solvang, CA 93463 (800) 624-5572
July 29, 2013	9 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Petosky, Michigan	Odawa Casino Resort 1760 Lears Road Petosky, MI 49770 (877) 442-6464
July 31, 2013	9 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Indian Island, Maine	Sockalexis Arena 16 Wabanaki Way Old Town, ME 04468 (800) 255-1293
August 6, 2013	9 a.m.– 12 p.m.	Marksville, Louisiana	Paragon Casino Resort 711 Paragon Place Marksville, LA 71351 (800) 946-1946