

# State of Connecticut

GEORGE JEPSEN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

August 2, 2013

Elizabeth Appel  
Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 4141-MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007, RIN 1076-AF18  
Request for Extension of Comment Period**

Dear Ms. Appel:

The State of Connecticut hereby requests an extension of the comment period on the "preliminary discussion draft" of proposed revisions to the tribal acknowledgment regulations released on June 21, 2013. Connecticut is a geographically small state with a number of entities that have already been denied acknowledgement under the existing regulations and others that may seek tribal acknowledgment in the future. Therefore, the proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for the State of Connecticut, its localities and its citizens. The preliminary discussion draft is lengthy and raises a number of complex and important issues. The existing comment period of only 60 days does not give Connecticut sufficient time to prepare its comments.

Connecticut has a deep background in acknowledgement issues gained through heavy involvement in a number of acknowledgement decisions and—given its size and the number of past and possible future applicants—has an unusually strong interest in the integrity of the acknowledgement process. Connecticut's informed views on the proposed changes to the existing regulations, which have been in place for over 30 years, will be helpful to the BIA. Moreover, the additional time requested will be both critical to Connecticut's full and fair participation in the process and minimal relative to the importance of the issues involved.

For the foregoing reasons, Connecticut respectfully requests a 45-day extension to the current comment period so interested parties have sufficient time to review the proposal and submit responsive comments. I appreciate your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

George Jepsen  
Attorney General  
State of Connecticut

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CC: Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Senator Chris Murphy  
Representative John Larson  
Representative Joe Courtney  
Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Representative James Himes  
Representative Elizabeth Esty  
Governor Dannel Malloy  
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs  
R. Lee Fleming, Director of the Office of Acknowledgement