



August 12, 2013

Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action
1849 C Street, NW
MS 4141-MIB

Via Email to consultation@bia.gov

Dear Ms. Appel:

As Chair of the Tejon Indian Tribe, I personally know of the struggle of non-recognized tribes to meet the current standards imposed by the Interior Department. Generations of our people died as they sought their rightful recognition. We have great sympathy for those who are striving to gain recognition at this point in history.

We support the recommendations developed by the working group or taskforce. We believe that the six points they raise merit serious consideration and action. We support them as enumerated below:

- The elimination of the requirement for a letter of intent.
- The elimination of criteria (a) requiring evidence from outside observers of the petitioning community's continuing existence.
- The establishment of 1934 as the year from which a community must prove continued distinct existence
- The inclusion of potential "expedited positive" determinations
- The potential inclusion of the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), or perhaps another objective entity in the rendering of the final determinations and/or hearing appeals...so long as the entity possesses the requisite familiarity with Indian Law, history, culture, and the history of the acknowledgment of American Indian tribes
- The ability for tribes that had previously received negative findings to reapply under the new rules.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathryn Montes Morgan,
Tribal Chairwoman