



KENT SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Kent School 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. The proposed changes to 25 CFR Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for our School and the tri-state region.

Despite the clear effect of the proposal on previously denied and potential future tribal acknowledgment decisions in Connecticut, no meeting has been scheduled anywhere close to our State and an unreasonably short comment period of only 60 days during the summer months has been offered.

We understand that the announced basis for the release of the preliminary draft is to consult with tribal interests under federal Indian policy. However, comments from other affected parties now being blindsided by this proposed revision are also essential. Indeed, Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn, quoted last Friday (July 19) in CTpost.com, has acknowledged this point: "The discussion draft is a starting point in the conversation with federally recognized tribes, petitioners and the public on how to ensure that the process is fair, efficient and transparent....We are starting with an open mind and no fixed agenda and we're looking forward to getting input from all stakeholders before we move forward with a proposed rule that will provide additional certainty and timeliness to the process. In many parts of the discussion draft, we have made no fixed recommendations in order to have the benefit of that input in formulating a proposed rule."

BIA can obtain a full record and be properly advised on the proposal only if it provides sufficient time to review this highly detailed proposal.

The current rules have been in effect for over 30 years, and we object to the Department rushing through a sweeping revision process such as has been proposed in the preliminary discussion draft. Please provide at least a 45-day extension to the current comment period so all interested parties have sufficient time to review the proposal and submit responsive comments.

Thank you for your prompt intervention in this matter. We look forward to having your reply to our request.

Sincerely,

Richardson W. Schell
Headmaster & Rector

cc: Kent School Board of Trustees, Kent School Alumni Association
Governor Malloy, Attorney General Jepson, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy
Representatives Courtney, Esty, Larson, DeLauro, Himes