

State of Connecticut

GEORGE JEPSEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

June 16, 2014

Elizabeth Appel
Director
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Mail Stop 4141-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007, RIN 1076-AF18

Dear Ms. Appel:

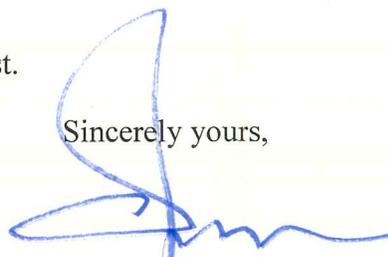
The State of Connecticut (the State) hereby requests a 45-day extension of the comment period on the proposed rule revising the tribal acknowledgment regulations published on May 29, 2014. *See* Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes, 79 Fed. Reg. 30766 (May 29, 2014).

The proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for the State, its local governments and citizens. Despite the clear effect of the proposal on previously denied and potential future tribal acknowledgment decisions in Connecticut, no meeting has been scheduled in our State and a short comment period of only 60 days has been offered. The 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. In addition, the public meetings that have been scheduled in other states are mostly in venues associated with Indian Tribes. Comments from non-tribal interests in a neutral environment are essential.

The current rules have been in effect for over 30 years, and we are aware of no reason to rush through a sweeping revision process as has been proposed. Please provide a 45-day extension to the current comment period so interested parties have sufficient time to review the proposal and submit responsive comments. Please also schedule a public meeting within Connecticut at a venue not associated with an Indian Tribe.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Jepsen', with a large, sweeping initial 'G'.

GEORGE JEPSEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
CONNECTICUT

- c: Senator Richard Blumenthal
- Senator Chris Murphy
- Representative John Larson
- Representative Joe Courtney
- Representative Rosa DeLauro
- Representative James Himes
- Representative Elizabeth Esty
- Governor Dan Malloy