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July 14, 2014

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via e-mail to consultation@bia.gov

Mr. Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
c/o Ms. Elizabeth K. Appel
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action - Indian Affairs
1849 C. Street NW
MS 4141-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Re: 1076-AF18
Rule: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007
Request for Extension of Comment Period
Proposed Changes to 25 CFR, Part 83, Federal Tribal Acknowledgment Regulations

Dear Mr. Washburn,

By letter dated June 19, 2014, copy attached, the Town of Kent and other Connecticut municipalities requested an extension of the comment period on the proposed revisions to 25 CFR, Part 83, Federal Tribal Acknowledgment Regulations. At present, comments on the proposed regulations must be received on or before August 1, 2014.

The Town of Kent requested that the comment period be extended by 90 days. To date, I do not believe that the Department has either granted or denied the Town's request.

I am therefore reiterating the Town's request for an extension of time in which to submit comments on the proposed regulations. The Town intends to submit substantive comments; and the additional time is necessary for it to fully develop and submit those comments.

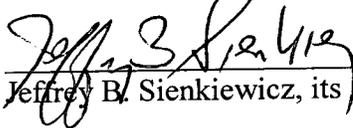
The Town of Kent is home to a reservation set aside by the Colony of Connecticut for the Schaghticoke. For about thirty (30) years the Town, as well as its citizens and property owners, have been engaged in land claims litigation brought by groups claiming to qualify as Indian tribes under federal law, specifically the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation and the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe. That litigation remains active. Indeed, as recently as July 1st, the Town, other land claim defendants and the United States filed their Appellee Briefs with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the case entitled *Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, et al. v. Kent School Corp., Inc.*, et al, Docket 12-4544(L).

The Town was also involved for many years as an interested party in Petition #79, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation; and is currently involved as an interested party in Petition #239, Schaghticoke Indian Tribe.

The proposed regulations offer a fundamental shift in the evidence required to establish tribal existence and in the legal presumptions that will support tribal existence. Given its extensive history of Indian land claims litigation and its extensive participation in the acknowledgment process concerning the Schaghticoke, the Town has extreme interest in the proposed revisions to the acknowledgment regulations. The time extension request is essential to its being able to fully comment on the proposed revisions in a substantive and meaningful manner.

For the foregoing reasons, I urgently request that the comment period be extended as previously requested by the Town.

Sincerely,
The Town of Kent, Connecticut

by 
Jeffrey B. Sienkiewicz, its Attorney

JBS/jbs
pab\kent\regs\extension ltr.

June 19, 2014

Elizabeth Appel
Director
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
U.S. Department of the Interior
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 Towns of Kent, Salisbury, Cornwall, Winsted, Sharon, Norfolk, Litchfield, Harwinton, Barkhamsted, Roxbury, Torrington, Washington, New Hartford, Morris, Colebrook and Canaan, Connecticut (the “Towns”) hereby request an 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) (to be codified at 25 C.F.R. pt. 83). The proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for our Towns and the State of Connecticut. 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. 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 in the proposed rule. Please provide a **90-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 the State of Connecticut at a venue not associated with an Indian Tribe. Thank you for considering this request.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Bruce Adams

Bruce Adams
First Selectman
Kent

/s/ Gordon M. Ridgeway

Gordon M. Ridgeway
First Selectman
Cornwall

/s/ Elinor Carbone

John Rodolico
Mayor
Torrington

Ms. Elizabeth Appel
August 2, 2013
Page 2

/s/ Curtis Rand

Curtis Rand
First Selectman
Salisbury

/s/ Brent Colley

Brent Colley
First Selectman
Sharon

/s/ Barbara Henry

Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Roxbury

/s/Susan Dyer

Susan Dyer
First Selectman
Norfolk

/s/ Dale Martin

Dale Martin
Town Manager
Winsted

/s/ Leo Paul

Leo Paul
First Selectman
Litchfield

/s/ Michael Criss

Michael Criss
First Selectman
Harwinton

/s/ Don Stein

Don Stein
First Selectman
Barkhamsted

/s/ Mark Lyon

Mark Lyon
First Selectman
Washington

/s/ Dan Jerram

Dan Jerram
First Selectman
New Hartford

/s/ Barbara Bongiolatti

Barbara Bongiolatti
First Selectman
Morris

/s/ Thomas McKeon

Thomas McKeon
First Selectman
Colebrook

/s/ Patricia Mechare

Patricia Mechare
First Selectman
Canaan

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

Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Lee Fleming, Office of Federal Acknowledgment