Towns of

North Stonington *Cornwall*

Ledyard *Preston*

Connecticut

July 7, 2014

Acting Director Brian Deese
The Office of Management and Budget
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Attention: OMB Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior:
OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

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

Dear Mr. Deese:

The Towns of Cornwall, Ledyard, North Stonington, Preston and Roxbury, Connecticut (the "Towns") seek time to file with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) our comments on the paperwork burdens imposed upon us by the Department of the Interior's (DOI) recently published proposed rule revising the tribal acknowledgment regulations. See Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes, 79 Fed. Reg. 30766 (May 29, 2014).

Our Towns believe the discussion of the information requirements in the May 29 notice is flawed and based on incorrect assumptions, and we are developing comments for that purpose. It is very important for OMB to obtain our comments before responding to DOI.

Our Towns hereby request that OMB defer sending its paperwork burden comments to the Department of the Interior (Interior) until at least July 28, 2014, the end of the 60-day window for OMB to do so provided by the Paperwork Reduction Act. This will enable OMB to be informed of our estimates of the paperwork burdens of the proposed rules before OMB files its formal comments on paperwork burdens with Interior.

By the attached letter, we have also requested that the Department of the Interior extend the comment period for the proposed rule itself and for an additional related proposed rule to no later than October 1, 2014. Accordingly, our request for OMB's deferral of its comments to July 28, 2014, will not likely result in overall delay in completion of the rule-making. Should DOI extend the comment, we request that OMB also extend its period for response to DOI for a corresponding period beyond July 28.

Thank you for considering this request.

Very truly yours,

Gordon M. Ridgway
First Selectman
Cornwall

John Rodolico
Mayor
Ledyard

Nicholas H. Mullane, II
First Selectman
North Stonington

Robert M. Congdon
First Selectman
Preston

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
Attorney General George Jepsen
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Lee Fleming, Director of the Office of Federal Acknowledgment