OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY - INDIAN AFFAIRS

TRIBAL LISTENING SESSION

Executive Order 13781

Reorganization of the Executive Branch

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MR. JANSSEN: All right. I think we're going to start.

So at this time I'd like to call the listening session to order. As a way of introduction, my name is Miles Janssen. I work for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs as one of his counselors. I've been in that position for going on two years now, since May of 2015.

So I'd like to thank all the Tribal leaders who are here in attendance today. We have a lot of important matters to discuss, matters that need your guidance and your leadership and your wisdom. And you'll know, you know, many of -- the two other people sitting next to me here today, senior career level employees we have worked with for many years. So we're here to listen to you today, to work with you on the questions being presented by the Trump Administration.

So right now I will provide an overview of today's listening session and then ask my colleagues to introduce themselves.

So the purpose of this listening session today, the Trump Administration has issued two executive orders that we'd like your input on. The executive orders instruct DoI, under the Department, to take certain actions, and it's critical that we get your insight for
First we'll be discussing Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch. We will do that until about noon. Then we will take a lunch break, and then we will switch focus to Executive Order 13792, review of designations under the Antiquities Act. That deals with national monument designations and also includes the Bears Ears National Monument.

Today's listening session is for Tribal leader input and comments as part of the nation-to-nation relationship between tribes and the federal government. We are here primarily to listen and to ensure that your views are considered as part of the record for the Administration's next steps moving forward.

Today is not the only listening session. There's going to be a total of six reorganization listening sessions. A few of them have already taken place, one in Portland and I believe in Billings, and there will also be four national monument listening sessions throughout the month of June. I believe the schedule is online. We might have a copy of the schedules for you as well.

The listening sessions are going to be recorded and transcribed. The transcriptions of the
listening sessions will be made available at www.bia.gov. Any kind of transcripts and written comments will be analyzed, and the recommendations will be reported to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs as well as to the Secretary of Interior, who will then make reports and recommendations to the White House.

So, again, the first listening session today is on the reorganization of the executive branch, and then we'll transition after lunch to the national monuments and Bears Ears discussion.

So at this point in time, I'd like to turn to my colleagues for their introductions. Thank you.

MS. ORTIZ: Good morning, everyone. My name is Hankie Ortiz. I'm a member of the Kiowa Tribe from Oklahoma. And I am the Acting Deputy Bureau Director for Field Operations, which means that I am acting as a supervisor for all of the regional offices, and I work with the BIA Director, Bruce Loudermilk.

MR. DEARMAN: Good morning, everyone. First of all, I really appreciate all the Tribal leaders for taking the time to come here today. We really look forward to hearing your comments.

But my name is Tony Dearman. I'm the Director of Bureau of Indian Education. I've been on board since November. And I'm a member of the Cherokee
Tribal Listening Session re E.O. 13781

So we'll turn now to Executive Order 13718, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch.

As a little bit of background, this executive order was issued on March 13th, 2017, and directs agency heads to send proposals to the OMB, the OMB director for the reorganization of their agencies, if appropriate, in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of that agency. So that's what we are here for today.

You may have heard the Secretary, Ryan Zinke, talk about taking authority and moving it to the front lines. You also might have heard him talk about how the organization, the structure was formed 100 years ago and to think about what will Indian Affairs look like 100 years from now. The way that it is structured now, does that meet your needs for Tribal sovereignty. So there's also -- more information about the executive order has been provided on the handouts that we've given to you.

And some of the questions that might be helpful today, for today's discussion are do the structures of the Department of the Interior and Indian Affairs currently meet Tribal needs?

You can see the structure of Indian Affairs...
on the org charts that we passed out today. There's three of them. One is the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, one is the BIA, and then one is the BIE. And we'll go over those org charts in just a little bit. If you have any questions regarding that -- because sometimes I know it can be confusing between the BIA and the Office of the Assistant Secretary, I know sometimes some confusion might happen.

So the questions also are what changes to the structure, if any, do you recommend and why? What kind of structure would improve efficiency in terms of possible delivery of services? What kind of structure would improve effectiveness in terms of better providing to meet the tribes' needs and promote self-determination and self-governance? And what structure would make the Department of Indian Affairs more accountable to tribes?

I think it's important to say, to note right now there are no proposals currently on or off the table. We have no plan. We want to open this up and receive recommendations. So any kind of -- any kind of suggestions would be helpful today.

So we'll start first with the Office of the Assistant Secretary org chart. Obviously at the top is the Assistant Secretary. Below him is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary. So in the last administration
that was Kevin Washburn was the Assistant Secretary, Larry Roberts was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Now, most of this org chart is -- the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is management. What that does is that takes care of HR, leasing, technology, budget issues relating to Indian Affairs. And most of that is based in between D.C. and Albuquerque.

Moving over to the left side of the org chart, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development. Under the last administration that was Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes who headed that. Under that is -- you have the White House Council on Native American Affairs, the Office of Self-Governance. So that's the office that deals with self-governance tribes. And then you have IEED, the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development. And there are the three divisions located within them, and they're based in Denver and D.C. as well.

Also, if you note under the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, there's the Office of Federal Acknowledgement, dealing with the acknowledgement of groups wanting to become federally recognized tribes; the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs; the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, that deals with regulations, promulgation of regulations; and then the Office of Indian Gaming.
So I think it's important to note that all these offices are within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, not within the BIA. And so right now I'll turn it over to Hankie to talk a little bit about the organizational structure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

MS. ORTIZ: Well, welcome, everyone. I think -- I appreciate that you're here to provide some comments. I think before I talk just about BIA, I want to reiterate something that Miles just said in that what we are talking about with regard to structure is that the Assistant Secretary oversees basically, like, three different branches. And one of them is directly in his office, the Office of the Assistant Secretary, one of them is the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the other one is the Bureau of Indian Education. And that's kind of how we're -- how we're sitting here is kind of how it's represented.

And so within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, we have -- in central office, we have four deputy bureau directors. The first one oversees field operations -- that's the position that I'm acting in right now -- and works with all of the regional offices. There are 12 regional offices across the country, and I'm pretty sure you all know where your regional office is located. But
also within the regional offices there are agencies that fall under those regions.

We also have a deputy bureau director for justice services that basically oversees all of the law enforcement issues, and tribal courts is also located in justice services. And you can see all the different divisions that we have here for the police; land mobile radio; emergency management, which is in case of any kind of emergency, they kind of do the planning for all of BIA, all of Indian Affairs; internal affairs. And so that's all within justice services. And of course, like I said, tribal courts, working with the Tribal courts and doing the evaluations and helping them with training issues and things like that.

The deputy bureau director of Indian services, that's my permanent position. That's the job that I normally do. There are five divisions under Indian services, including human services, tribal government, transportation, self-determination, and workforce development.

And then the last deputy is the deputy director of trust services. And within trust services there are these eight different divisions: real estate services; probate services; forestry and wildland fire management; Indian energy service center; land, title and
records; natural resources; water and power; and then
program management and coordination.

So that's the overall central office
structure. And then, of course, within the regions you
have the regional office with a regional director, and all
the regions have one or two deputy directors. A lot of
that depends on the size of the regional office. They
might have a deputy director for Indian services and trust
services or just one deputy director. And then there are
agencies located throughout the country that relate to
different regional offices as well.

So that's kind of the overall structure of
the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and I hope that's helpful.
If there are any questions that you need to help clarify
kind of what we're talking about to better respond and
provide your comments, I'd be happy to help you after
Tony's presentation.

MR. DEARMAN: In the copy of the org chart
that you have from the Bureau of Indian Education, we've
also included the positions and locations of the offices.

And going back to what Secretary Zinke has
really been pushing is he wants to strengthen the front
lines. And so we felt like it was important to make sure
that the locations of the offices and the positions were
on the organizational chart.
As you can see, we have deputy director of school operations in Washington, D.C., and that position oversees -- works with BIA in school construction, repairs. And many of you in the room, we've met with you in the office and you know that we have to have our brothers and sisters from BIA to come in and help us take care of our schools and our kids. Without them, we couldn't -- we wouldn't be able to do it.

Associate deputy director for division of performance accountability, that's located in D.C. Sovereignty in Indian education -- I'm not going to go through each one of the boxes, but you do see the locations.

The one -- when we get down to the education resource centers out in the field, what we would call front line services that actually work with the tribes that are embedded into the field, they're down in the -- below the associate deputy directors. And tribally controlled has seven, BIA operated has three, and associate deputy director for Navajo has five.

And we look forward to the comments that you are going to provide today.

MR. JANSSEN: So I think we'll open it up to comments from tribal leaders. Again, there's nothing on the table and there's nothing off the table in terms of
what a reorganization would look like.

So I know for probably most tribes, you deal primarily with the superintendent for the regional director and then, you know, sometimes the issue comes up to D.C. So that -- you know, that might be a framework where you're coming from. But if there's -- if you have any kind of ideas of what you would like to see changed, that's what today is for.

And so I forgot to ask. Is there any press in the room today at all? Okay. Then we don't need to worry about that issue.

So at this point in time I'd invite tribal leaders to come up to the microphone, or we can pass the microphone around to receive comments. I'd ask that you just state your name and your tribe before making your comment. Thank you. And also if you could spell your name for the court reporter as well, that would be helpful.

Or if you have any questions regarding the org chart in terms of location of where the office might be, what the office does, we can also answer those questions as well if that would help guide discussion.

MR. BEGAYE: Russell Begay, Navajo Nation.

I think this is on; right?

First of all, thank you for providing
opportunity for us to make comments on the possible restructuring of the Department of Interior, specifically Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This is a great opportunity to improve the federal agency that impacts the lives of Native American people across this country. The Navajo Nation, like other Indian nations, has a long-standing government-to-government relationship with the federal government. The central piece of this relationship is the trust responsibility that exists between the United States government and the Navajo people and all tribal nations across the country.

I also have some concerns about this process, the timeline, and what exactly we're gathered here to comment upon, the fact that BIA isn't just another federal agency. There is a federal trust relationship that goes back to the founding of this country on Indian land. This Administration needs to understand the BIA plays an important role in administering and fulfilling the statutory treaty-based and policy-based trust obligation that the United States has to Indian tribes.

The BIA just -- isn't just another federal entity to be downsized. We have a treaty with the United States. This is very different than the Department of Labor, the EPA, or other federal agencies. Depending on
how much BIA's reduced, there is a risk that there will be
inadequate staff available to fulfill the trust duties the
United States has to tribes generally and to the Navajo
Nation specifically.

The BIA is unique to Navajo. The BIA
manages 17 million acres for the Nation, or about
32 percent of all Indian trust land, and we need true
consultation and adequate time. No other group or entity
has a trust responsibility to the original Americans. As
such, 120 days is insufficient when we are discussing
matters of a critical nature such as public safety,
education, and other services through the BIA. It is
impossible to have adequate time for such a sweeping
review in short notice.

As for BIA's welfare, 40 percent of our
membership, Navajo Nation, lacks access to broadband
Internet, let alone access to the knowledge that the BIA
will be reorganized and restructured.

Tribes must also be part of the
decision-making process on these critical matters.
Oftentimes tribes comment on already drafted policy after
the decisions are made, and we provide comments to ensure
needed changes are included in these matters. It would be
more prudent for tribes to be at the forefront and not at
the end.
We need the plan to comment on. Generally we are concerned the nation is putting forth comments without receiving anything of substance to comment on. This will have the effect of making our comments appear as requests for changes, and the intention of the Administration in seeking the downsize of BIA are dubious.

With that background, I believe this reorganization and review is much needed in this century, the 21st century. BIA in the 21st century, first I'd like to put our recommendation for a name change. Office of Indigenous Nations is what we are putting on the table to say that needs to be considered in terms of a name change, Office of Indigenous Nations.

Secondly, there's a need for modernization. The BIA was created more than a century ago and was originally housed under the War Department. Then it updated and moved under the Department of Interior. Now it is time to modernize again to support tribes in this century, 21st century, and we have new challenges and new opportunities.

First, energy leadership. 24 percent of natural resources are on Native lands. BIA should help us become energy powerhouses so we can build our economies and supply energy to the world. If tribes develop energy, we can also rely less upon Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other
Technology. Tribes have changed in what we need and how BIA can help. Now we need technical assistance. We don't need someone to hold our hands, but in negotiating with Microsoft, Boeing, Raytheon, and other industry leaders in various fields is that we need that technical assistance in making deals with and negotiating with these companies. So we need BIA to become a technological leader.

Workforce development. In the 21st century, there's opportunity to develop a workforce. We are opening doors. BIA needs to be there to help us open doors with colleges, state, private colleges and universities so that we can develop our own law schools and medical schools and other types of educational institutions.

Also we need BIA to be an advocate, to play an advocacy role across all federal agencies, not just be housed under DoI, but become an extended arm of Indian nations like Navajo. So we need the BIA to go -- to advocate for us with other agencies like EPA, HUD, and BLM and other agencies.

BIA should have the ability to fight for us and uphold the trust responsibility over Department of Justice, EPA, and others. If the BIA is restructured, it
should be done so in a way that will help them better serve as liaisons between the two sovereigns of the U.S. and tribes. They help understand -- they need to help the United States understand its treaty obligation and trust responsibility. That's a role they need to play.

Also, best practices. BIA should be a leader in best practices, filled with experts. And we need experts to -- they need to bring in economists, technology experts, cutting edge energy and resource engineers and others. Economic development and energy support is what we need from the BIA in the 21st century. Help us develop the 20 percent of natural resources we own. We want to help build America.

And we don't want to become corporations as part of this reorganization, restructuring. We want to maintain the trust status of our land as it is today on Navajo.

Funding in the 21st century. Don't cut our budget by 12 percent when funding for Indian Country is already grossly underfunded.

Opportunity for BIA to build expertise. BIA reorganization should be -- should not be done in a vacuum. This is an opportunity to deal with the silos that we know exist at Department of Interior because of the many hurdles we had to jump through when dealing with
various issues, including Fish and Wildlife, BLM, and
others on SMCRA regulation. The BIA shouldn't have to run
through other DoI subagencies. It is more efficient to
manage approvals and reviews within the Bureau of Indian
Affairs, or the Office of Indigenous Nations.

Also, transfer oversight on oil and gas to
the Navajo Nation from BLM and also transfer relevant
functions of the National Park Services to Navajo Nation.
We have Monument Valley, we have Canyon de Chelly, we have
other national parks, but we need those functions to be
transferred to the Navajo Nation.

And opportunity for more tribal
self-determination, but we need -- but need to ensure
funding for programs remain level -- remains level. We
generally support tribal programs, self-determination such
as our 638 contracts for public safety and general
assistance. The more we can take on these programs and
run them on our lands with our laws, the better. But if
we transfer these programs, the tribes must ensure that
fundings remain at the same level.

TBIC needs reorganization. The current TBIC
structure is inefficient and does not provide efficient
delivery of resources to where they are needed.
Specifically, TBIC, or its successor, should have
proportional representation. The Navajo Nation is
approximately 19 percent of the BIA on-reservation population, a third of trust land, and half of the BIE population. The Nation should have proportional influence in decision making and allocation.

Regional prioritization should be developed, not a national priority list. To ensure decisions are made at the local level, the Navajo Nation, for example, should not have to bend and negotiate budget priorities to meet the needs of other tribes, other regions, and D.C. bureaucratic priorities. So it should be regionally based rather than nationally based.

Funding. Faster and more efficient funding distribution is needed. All tribes can testify to the inefficient process of getting funds to regions after a budget or CR is passed. It can take weeks. This can have drastic impact to public safety, health, and education. In extreme cases, this has directly resulted in scholarships not being offered and students having to drop out of college. The BIA has already studied this problem, but with retirements and shuffling of staff, little action has taken place. This inefficiency must be addressed by automating funding distribution directly to regions and away from Washington as soon as it is available.

Annual funding should be granted and not piecemealed through the year as it is today. Small budget
modifications and disbursals spaced out over the course of the year does not help with planning or doing large projects. Regional priorities should mean something. Regions should receive their funding as they prefer and as they know best. For example, the eastern region should not have preferences be determined in part by the Great Plains region. And then ability to transfer tribal priority allocation, TPA, line items that cover shortfall in other line items, that needs to be put in place.

In terms of lands, right-of-ways, approvals, the driving principle should be the Navajo Nation and other tribes should have full authority over all lands. That's surface, subsurface. This should be DoI's driving principle with regards to our lands. If we need federal approvals and sign-offs, that should be transferred to our authority. This is our land. It's simple.

This means we support this Administration's review of limited waivers of the time-consuming NEPA process on tribal land, and any and all funding for approval should be contracted and authority returned to the Navajo Nation. Under NEPA, NEPA compliance should be managed by the people on the ground, in this case Navajo Nation EPA. Our people are qualified, and we should be given contracts to comply so we speed up the NEPA process.

Also, we are recommending that another land
status designation be created called restricted fee land. This means the land that's under this restricted fee land would be, one, tax exempt similar to tribal trust land, and that under the restricted fee land we should apply tribal laws and regulations with no approval or review by the Secretary, and also delegate the ability to convert land into restricted fee through the Secretary if approved by a tribe and not requiring congressional approval.

Remove restriction and red tape that prohibits development of secretarial lands. We request that secretarial orders be lifted on our lands. Secretarial land reform, under that reform we currently cannot approve leases on secretarial lands.

Mineral and energy leases, we need authority over mineral approvals, Navajo's authority expanded to include energy and minerals. We don't need the existing patronizing setup. Any new structure should treat tribal land as tribally owned land, not like other BLM or federally owned land.

Structure. Looking at the structure that was passed out, we are asking that AS-IA be elevated to the Department of Interior undersecretary position. To more directly serve tribal nations, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs should be elevated to this position. This is already authorized by the Indian Trust
Asset Reform Act; it just needs to be implemented.

Then the opposition to move administrative support to D.C. The region should keep acquisitions and other administrative support locally as opposed to centralizing in Washington.

And then transfer -- nearly 40 percent of BIE students are on Navajo Nation. We need all management -- all management transferred to our people. We don't need DoI operating our schools from Washington.

And also we're asking that the Department of Interior increase its authority to directly contract with Navajo Nation using water from any surface water like the upper and lower basin of the Colorado River, as they have done with NGS, by providing them 50,000 acre feet of water by directly contracting with them. We are asking that that authority be increased so that they can have -- so DoI can make contracts with Navajo directly in these -- of these surface water.

And Ramah and for -- this is specifically for Navajo, that we need all Navajo land and communities to be put under Navajo region. This includes Ramah. At the same time, we need funding with these communities that come to the Navajo region remain so that the region isn't doing more with less. And right now, Ramah, which is Navajo land, Navajo community, addresses our -- or is
supervised in a sense by another region outside of the
Navajo region.

ONHIR, again specific to Navajo, any
reorganization must consider and include funding
obligations if the BIA -- if ONHIR is transferred to the
BIA for management. You cannot ask BIA to run ONHIR with
less.

Then talking about police and Office of
Justice Services, there is redundant training. Under
current BIA requirements, the Navajo Police Department has
to submit itself to training and operation regulations
that are redundant. Specifically, the annual 40-hour
training requirement and the background checks are
presently being done by our police officer standards and
training certification under Arizona. Adhering to the
different requirements is redundant and duplicates the
services performed by our police department.

Unfunded mandates is another one. Under
current BIA requirements, there are unfunded mandates that
impact our service efforts. Critical components are not
funding but are required. Communications specialists are
required for the radio communication component of the
contract, but they are not funded in the annual personnel
budget. Additionally, emergency management components are
not funded by the BIA.
Competition for basic public safety resources. Navajo PD has to compete with the vast array of 638 law enforcement entities despite being the largest 638 contract entity for public safety. This leads to disparity of officers providing police services on the Nation. This competition does not facilitate or encourage the equitable sharing of resources when compared to the needs of the Nation.

Police need authority over all crimes and all criminals on our land. This includes not Indians. Under the current BIA requirement, despite the increased focus on Indian Country violent crimes under the Tribal Law and Order Act, there is no increase in police officers on our Nation. Using the BIA as a funding mechanism does not increase the authority of the Nation in attempting to resolve violent crime if the Nation is not empowered to act beyond historical limitations placed on it.

Under BIA and Office of Justice Services audits, the BIA Office of Justice Services yearly audits need to be done on time and on schedule. Currently, detention services deal with BIA personnel who start the review and oftentimes never complete the process.

Training, one-on-one training as opposed to web training under federal financial management systems for grants and program services. Under the funding best
practices, we want language in PL -- Public Law 93-638
applied to all grants and agreements with all federal
agencies. Again, let me repeat that. We want language
that is in Public Law 93-638 be applied to all grants and
agreements with all federal agencies.

In closing, this great opportunity to bring
the BIA into the 21st century is much appreciated;
however, the federal government needs to continue to
provide consultation, collaboration with tribes, and
adjust the schedule for this review. Sometimes we must
move slowly and deliberately to handle long-term impacts.
Specifically, we would ask this initial comment period be
extended, and we ask that the DoI share an initial plan
prior to finalization for tribes to comment upon. If we
as tribes and Department of Interior work together, we can
improve the BIA's operation, efficiency, and help take a
step forward, fully meeting the federal trust
responsibility.

So thank you, Department of Interior, for
holding this listening session, and now we're asking that
all other agencies that have trust responsibilities should
also consult with us likewise, including Indian Health
Services, Veterans Affairs, Department of Energy, USDA,
HUD, and other federal agencies.

So, again, thank you.
MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

MR. FROST: Good morning. My name is Kevin R. Frost. K-e-v-i-n, R., F-r-o-s-t. I'm a
councilmember from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe out of Colorado. On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and personally, it is an honor to speak here today.

I understand Secretary Zinke's idea to want to reorganize the executive branch, particularly the Interior itself, so for today I'll be providing some comments. And as far as more detailed explanation, my tribe will provide written comments for that as well.

Reorganization should only be undertaken after comprehensive and meaningful consultation with tribes. BIA should give tribes as much notice as possible before consultations are scheduled and share proposed plans as soon as practicable. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe appreciates that BIA is trying to consult early in the process, but without a proposal it is difficult to comment.

The BIA should consult with tribes before submitting any proposal. We recognize that the Bureau's proposal is due soon, in June, but the Bureau should not underestimate the level of tribal interest in a proposal to reorganize the Bureau. The Bureau should consult again before submitting a final proposal in September.
Tribes rely heavily on the Bureau. The Tribe is supportive of a more efficient Bureau if it results in improved services. But the Bureau is different from other federal agencies, and any move to reorganize should be undertaken carefully with an eye toward preserving the federal trust responsibility toward tribes.

The Bureau has been underfunded, understaffed, and undertrained for years. While a reorganization may be in order, an across-the-board downsizing is not appropriate. The Bureau has been undergoing a de facto downsizing for decades through attrition and neglect.

Before submitting a reorganization proposal, the Bureau should consider, one, whether program goals for Indian Country are being met with the current federal workforce; two, whether existing federal appropriations are adequate; three, the extent to which constant funding shortfalls undermine the achievement or limit the achievement of tribal goals for Indian Country; four, whether 638 contracting and other delegation tools are being used to the fullest extent possible; five, whether federal streamlining goals to improve the delivery of services and programs to Indian tribes can be realistically achieved through consolidation of Department offices and the downsizing of the Department's federal
workforce; six, how federal -- how Department reorganization or a recommendation to reduce the Department's federal workforce may impact program services to tribes; and, seven, the logistical and practical impact to tribes of closing or consolidating field/agency or regional offices and downsizing the federal workforce.

As it relates to energy development, tribal lands are different from public lands. In attempting to address the multiple interests of federal taxpayers and interest groups in the use of federal lands, many laws and regulations fail to recognize the drastic differences between public lands and Indian lands. The legitimate stakeholders in decisions affecting Indian lands are dramatically different from those related to public lands, and laws, regulations, and policies should reflect the unique interest that tribal constituents have in those outcomes.

The decisions of tribal governments about their lands are entitled to greater deference. Each of the 567 federally recognized Indian and Alaska Native governmental entities has its own set of priorities and cultural needs. Some tribes favor energy development as a means for funding their futures; others do not. Although federal laws generally prevent the use of tribal lands and resources without tribal governmental consent, required
federal approvals at many stages delay and impede the
power of tribal governments to act affirmatively to use
their lands.

The Tribe encourages the BIA to review the
federal regulations applicable to Indian tribes and their
lands and to modernize them by permitting electing tribes
to make and assume the responsibility for decisions
without the necessity for federal approvals except where
absolutely necessary.

Application of the -- of NEPA to tribal land
decisions is strangling tribes. As reflected in the
HEARTH Act, the Navajo Nation Trust Leasing Act and the
Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress has taken initial
steps to remove tribal land use in energy development
decisions from the procedural constraints of NEPA.
Congress and federal agencies should move decisively to
exempt from NEPA those federal actions needed to implement
tribal land use and energy development decisions. The
expense and delay imposed upon tribes due to federal NEPA
compliance requirements is staggering and prevents or
impedes economic development on Indian lands.

The division of federal/Indian trust
functions among multiple federal agencies complicates
energy development on Indian lands. The trust management
federal approval processes involving Indian energy
development are divided among multiple federal agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Natural Resource Revenue, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Coordination among those agencies with respect to trust functions is often poor, and the principal missions of the agencies are sometimes inconsistent with the furtherance of tribal governance and economic development.

The condition of Interior real property records and recording system needs comprehensive review. Whether tied to fossil fuels or alternative energy resources, energy development typically involves land-based operations for the generation and transmission of energy. The Department of the Interior, through the BIA and the Office of Special Trustee, has a responsibility to maintain land ownership records for tribes and individual Indian allottees. Those records must allow for the timely and accurate determination of ownership, encumbrances, and priority of liens applicable to lands and associated real property interest.

Based on Southern Ute experiences in recent years, as confirmed in a February 2016 report of the Interior Inspector General, report No. CR-EV-BIA-0011-2014, we are very concerned that the
real property record systems of the Department cannot meet
the modern commercial needs of tribes or Indian allottees
which further diminishes the opportunities for energy
development in Indian Country.

Governmental support for Native American
education and capacity building continues to be critical.
Educational challenges in Indian Country are widespread
and well documented. While the conditions vary among
Indian communities and reservations, Native American
educational success and achievement is often the exception
rather than the rule. As tribal governments assume
greater responsibility for the destiny of their members,
the need for well educated tribal members continues to
grow. Indian Country needs continued federal support for
programs that will allow Native Americans an effective
opportunity to develop the skills necessary to succeed in
a complex modern world. Particularly as related to
energy, emphasis should be placed on STEM subjects.

With that being said, the Southern Ute Tribe
is honored by the opportunity today to comment on this
reorganization, and we look to work with the Interior in
any manner possible to help further those goals.

Thank you.

MS. ORTIZ: Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.
MR. VELASQUEZ: Good morning. My name is Kasey Velasquez. I'm the vice chairman for the White Mountain Apache Tribe here in Arizona.

I'm going to speak -- I have our Tribe that's going to be giving their -- pretty much a position paper in writing, meaning that I'm not going to be as specific as these two leaders are. But understanding from White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Honorable Chairman Ronnie Lupe, we will be putting a position paper in place in terms of where we stand as Apaches of Arizona.

Earlier we talked about the consultation in terms of it appears that time is really not of essence for the tribe, for all the tribes in Indian Country, especially in terms of the consultation processes. I feel that right now, speaking for White Mountain Apache Tribe, you know, the position paper for us will pretty much indicate specifically what our thought process is in terms of the 100 years in terms of the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Second is, as a leader of White Mountain Apache Tribe, as second in command of White Mountain Apache Tribe, an area that's a little bit sensitive, but I also would like to put a notation specifically as the sovereignty, tribal sovereignty, as it pertains to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, as it pertains to all tribes
here in Indian Country. You know, that's one area that I really want to be very keen of in terms -- this relates to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the trust obligations, responsibilities, that BIA, United States federal government have obligations to the Native tribes here in the United States of America.

Another area that I want to highlight a little bit more on is the strong emphasis on the United States veterans, especially the Native American veterans. You know, right now I feel that we need additional funding for our Native vets. A lot of them right now, we've recently begun to hear the post-traumatic stress syndrome that plagues the Native tribes, and of course it plagues all the United States of America, all the armed veterans. So we -- you know, my Tribe is also looking at where are we at on the veterans, how are we -- how are we appealing in terms of treatment plans, financial endeavors in terms of housing, et cetera, for our Native veterans. That's another area that our Tribe is going to be pushing.

Another area that we haven't really talked about, too, is substance abuse. I feel that that's an area that needs to be heavily focused on. You know, as a -- you know, substance abuse plagues all over the country, even in -- even in non-Native tribes, organizations. You know, all walks of life, regardless of
how educated they are, regardless of where they're at financially, their incomes, you know, substance abuse plagues a lot of our people also.

You know, that also, you know -- I remember about 20 years ago, over 20 years ago when I was first in -- when I was finishing my first master's degree, I remember the late Dr. Dukepoo from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff said that in a couple of decades Native tribes are going to be hit with depression. And we as Native tribes are not going to have a clear understanding of what depression means because that's a -- that's foreign to us Native people. Years later, I reminisce back, and it amazes me how the late Dr. Dukepoo, who was a -- who worked for NAU in Flagstaff could see two decades ahead. So when it comes to depression, that's another area. Of course, it plagues all the people here in the world too.

Last thing I really want to hit on also is the economy, the economics in Indian land. You know, right now White Mountain Apache Tribe, you know, we -- through the -- through our Honorable Ronnie Lupe, our Tribal Chairman, we've been in contention with the water rights. So water rights, through his hard work, through a lot of our Tribal leaders that are pretty much passed on now, you know, with that in mind, that's something that my
Tribe is looking toward in terms of getting all the bases together, understanding the premises for years to come.

So the economies, the economic development on the reservations -- I'm speaking for all tribes -- is prudent. You know, I feel that sometimes we as tribes have to take a look at all of the United States federal government red tape. You know, I think reading in some of the paperwork here, it doesn't really emphasize a lot about how -- where the red tape is at also. So the White Mountain Apache Tribe is also going to go ahead and make note of that in our writing when we respond, because I feel standing here and talking, you know, through the gadgets here, you know, I'm not a leader like that. I rather have it in writing, but I also like to appeal to you specifically what White Mountain is thinking also.

Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

MR. BATES: Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to be able to -- rather than make a few recommendations, I will make some comments. I am LoRenzo Bates. L-o-R-e-n-z-o, B-a-t-e-s, speaker of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

Let me reiterate my message at the time that President Trump was -- the night before his inauguration to the western caucus group at that time. They were
speaking directly involving Indian Country at this particular function, and one of the things I stated on behalf of Indian Country was that Indian Country was not -- was not looking to continue a handout; we are looking for a hand up.

And what that meant -- what that meant was that Indian Country, as indicated in your -- in the letter that Indian Affairs has been 100 years. And when you consider the sophistication that has evolved within Indian Country from then until now and you hear from Indian leadership, Indian leadership has advanced -- Indian Country has advanced itself to the point that we know what can be done, we know what is needed. And all that you heard today, this morning, says that we are able to do what needs to be done as it applies to meeting the needs of Navajo, of Indian Country.

One shoe does not fit all. So when you consider a policy or procedure through the process, it will not necessarily fit in this case as applies to Navajo.

As indicated, I support the idea of, as an example, Indian Country taking more control over its resources, over economic development. I represent six chapters in New Mexico. I've been waiting for a convenience store to go through the BIA bureaucracy.
Eight years, still haven't turned over a shovelful of dirt. That is entirely ridiculous. When the regional office has supposed final authority to be able to grant permission to develop, it's ridiculous. So that's just one scenario.

Let me give you another example. You talk to BIE, BIE budget and the education process, and I'll provide this with you. It's a resolution of the Navajo Diné School Board Association. The Navajo NEAP basically means educating the Navajo today. It talks to rescinding Secretarial Order No. 3334. So when I talk to sophistication of Indian Country, this is a prime example, that when this secretarial order was issued it did not take into consideration in this case Navajo and how it would impact schools within Navajo. So by virtue of this legislation, it goes against all that the federal government was intended to do.

This resolution is going before Health and Education's social services committee. When passed, this is Navajo Nation's position as it applies to this particular secretarial order. That is Navajo Nation's position. So by based on this as an example, when Navajo takes a position, no matter what it may be, resources, public safety, that's the position of Navajo Nation.

And so with that, let me close with this
statement, is that given that we are -- I was only notified of the hearing as of a day or so back, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council will submit its written comments as applies to all of what is being requested. The 23rd Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and so they will make recommendations along with what President Begaye has stated in moving forward.

But I leave you again with this: one shoe does not fit all, and that needs to be taken into consideration on any changes that you make.

Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

Does anyone else have any comments on the -- on the proposed reorganization of Indian Affairs?

MR. SCABBY: Robert L. Scabby, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. I just wanted to make just a brief comment. It's kind of a general self-governance initiative area.

You know, whenever -- Salt River is a self-governance tribe. We're just a small tribe and out here, Scottsdale. And when we got into self -- we've compacted these -- most of the Bureau functions that were -- before were handled by the Bureau as operators. Well, the intent of self-governance was to take the BIA as day-to-day operators of federal functions affecting the
tribe and relegate them to technical assistance centers.

And in 1995 there was an effort to reorganize. I remember President Clinton was in office, and there was a reorganization. There was cuts at the top, and the net result was the BIA was cut and the money wasn't transferred to the tribes. It was transferred back to the treasury. And tribes, we have to be real careful that if there's a reorganization -- you know, we are already underfunded -- that this funding comes to the tribes. Right now we fund -- probably for every dollar we get from the BIA, we turn around and put 15 to $17 of our own money to make those things work right, the police services, detention services, social services, court services, et cetera.

And so I just wanted to let -- you know, let you know that it's -- that we need to take that into consideration if there's a reorganization. We are still underfunded. And even though Salt River, you know -- we have to take care of a lot of people, and we are still concerned. Our budget, we are still concerned about our budget, and the amount that we can spend on the people is not infinite. It's finite. And so even though we are looked at as a, you know, successful gaming tribe, we do need the federal dollars protected if there's a reorganization.
Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

MS. CAMPOY: Good morning. My name is Antonia Campoy, C-a-m-p-o-y. I am a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council, and I want to thank you for having this opportunity to come up here and speak.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is a unique tribal nation. We were recognized in 1978, and we have our reservation in Tucson. And we also have a population -- our Tribal membership right now is 22,000. Out of those 22,000, in Guadalupe, which is about ten miles down the road south of here, has a population of 35 -- 3200 Pascua Yaqui members. And so one of the -- one of the issues that we have is we need to find ways to support our membership in the metropolitan Phoenix area because we also have members in Scottsdale and in Hightown in the Chandler area.

And one of the biggest things that our Tribe is looking to is economic development. And I know a lot of our nations here, that's one of the key elements of providing for our members, Tribal members, economic development. And so I'm here to ask to support the other tribes in the economic development, which is a major issue for all nations across the country, I would think. And so if we can work on that issue, and also education.
Education is very important, as stated before by other tribal member leaders here. Scholarships are needed, monies is needed to continue the education of tribal members. We are -- it's a big need because even though our tribes are trying to support the students to go to college, what we can support is not sufficient with what they need. I was just attending a student recognition last night here for our college and high school graduates, and one of our students said that he's working very hard to try to come up with the tuition to ASU. He just graduated from the community college, and he is -- he is striving very hard to work on his own to get to ASU. And we are very proud of him.

But we will be submitting our recommendations in writing by the due date. And I just want to take the opportunity to say that I support what our other tribal leaders have stated here this morning.

Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

Any other comments regarding the reorganization or any questions regarding the current organizational structure of Indian Affairs?

MR. WHITE: I'd like to say good morning to everybody in the audience as well as the staff here today. It's an honor to be here. My name is Willie White. I'm a
councilman from the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe. We're located along the banks of the Colorado River on both sides, Arizona and California, and we have compact gaming with both states. We have about 50,000 acres of irrigable land and vast water from the Colorado River.

You know, I just kind of want to share my insights, you know, my -- what I say, I don't mean to offend anybody, so please don't, you know, take it that way. But, you know, I've kind of had my feet in both worlds, my grandmother likes to say, as far as the way I was brought up and, you know, my teachings and, you know, the experiences that I've had in business, you know, in the mainstream world as well as, you know, endeavors within our Tribal government and, you know, the challenges that we face.

My heart goes out to our people always, you know, our elders, our kids, our children. You know, there's many struggles. And the BIA, you know, in many cases has fallen short of the obligations that I feel personally that, you know, that our people are entitled to. You know, we have a lot to share and we have a lot to give. We always are giving, you know, in almost all respects, you know, to our surroundings and to the, you know, communities around us. I mean, a lot of our communities represent, you know, large employers and, you
know, economic, you know -- vast economic opportunities
for engagement, you know, across the borders and
boundaries.

And so I guess my -- the message that I
would like to convey to you folks here today is a request
that you do take your time in this reorganization. I
personally, you know, welcome it. I think that it's long
overdue, you know. I mean, some of the things that were
said here today were very enlightening, and I thank you,
leaders, for bringing these topics and issues forward.

But one of the things that's not really
brought up is kind of a comparison/contrast between, you
know, the things and the approaches that are taken toward
Native people through the years of the BIA and all the
organizational, you know, boundaries that are set and
guidelines that are intended to help us prevail, you know,
have actually in many ways limited our self-determination.
And so, you know, when we are approaching these
restructuring, you know, keep in mind that, you know, we
do have a very good understanding of what our needs are
and that we need to have less, in my opinion, less, you
know, hands-on from the federal government.

I think that, you know, the more that the
federal government and the BIA and all the different
departments try and control the interest of the Tribe, the
worse that it gets. And so, you know, that goes for economics, goes for our cultural practices especially, you know, what we do with our lands and our waters, what we choose, you know, not to do with them. You know, that's our right, and it should be respected.

You know, our -- very important, you know, is our cultural identities, our languages, and so all those, you know -- as opposed to trying to make us like everyone else, you know, let us be independent. And, you know, I hope that your plans in the reorganization and, you know, the approach or the end goal is to encourage our self-determination and not, you know, inhibit it.

So that's my statement. Thank you.

MR. JANSSSEN: Thank you.

MR. VELASQUEZ: I have a question. Vice Chairman Velasquez.

After all the reconstruction or whatever the process is, once you start moving on that, when are we going to have specifics in terms of -- I hear a lot out there about budget cuts, about it possibly affecting Indian Health Services. There's some of our Tribal entities on my reservation that really helps a lot of our Tribal people also. So we have series and series of -- there's a lot of anxiety out there, wondering where we're at on this too.
You know, I've been researching a lot on my own, but I don't get specifics. But I can -- the sense sure is out there to me is the ball is moving, but, you know, how -- what are the -- what are going to be the significant impacts in terms of, you know -- you know, we have programs out there that help subsidize our low income families, food, jobs, you know, just really down to the grassroots people. You know, those are the things that concerns me on continuance now.

You know, I've been in D.C. several times. I think that's where I met you. As a matter of fact, that was taken care of as of yesterday. The White Mountain put their word on the line, and I think it's in the clearinghouse now, so you might want to let the director of Bureau of Indian Affairs know that that's completed from White Mountain.

MS. ORTIZ: Okay.

MR. VELASQUEZ: But moreover, the more I think about this is I think as we move forward in terms of President Trump's budget cuts, or whatever his thinking is, you know, I believe the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there's trust responsibility. You guys need to let us know where this is going. You know, we have a couple of lobbyists in D.C., so they're on a continuance of letting us know.
But my concern is for the grassroots people, like the people that -- you know, jobs on the reservations are hard, the economy is hard. You know, I know for a fact livelihood in D.C. is a totally different environment than the reservation life. So, you know, about what to tell our Native Americans, our fellow Native Americans that work in D.C., you know, like you said earlier, you come from a federally recognized tribe; therefore, my assumption is you have a clear understanding of how your people are, likewise with Tony there too. You know?

So, you know, those are just some of the serious concerns that I have right now because, you know, we -- as my Tribe, you know, we are in a rural area. We are in a rural environment. Yes, we have -- yes, we have the casinos. Right now we are also in the midst of renegotiating with the -- you know, Governor Ducey, State of Arizona, and I like where that's moving.

Second thing is also Indian healthcare, IHS. You know, what -- if our budgets are going to be cut on that, what are we going to face? I'm concerned about third-party billing, AHCCCS, all the medical help that a lot of our Tribal members look to too. But all of that, of course, will be coming in our position paper also.

And I did see, you know, directly a lot of -- more of the technicality processes of thinking, but
I need you to really simply, to really get down to where are we at for the grassroots people, where are we at for grandma, grandfather, our brothers, our sisters, our aunts, our uncles that may have different multiple issues that are coming, that they are facing today.

You know, we talked about academics, tests and measurements. You know, earlier, I believe it was President Begaye talked about the redundancy in terms of difference between state law enforcement and the Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement. My thinking also goes back to the Bureau of Indian Education in terms of tests and measurements.

I notice that Bureau of Indian Affairs also -- Bureau of Indian Education. I take that back. You know, I don't know whether it's a norm, but my take is that when it comes to tests and measurements, you know, first thing that Bureau of Indian Education -- maybe that's their thought process indirectly, reactively, but a lot of that is reciprocity. If the State of Arizona has this law here, well, we as BIE, we're going to go ahead and acknowledge that law.

But the thing that bothers me is the tests and measurements of our Native kids, and that's something that really bothers me. I've been a board member before. You know, I've been a school administrator before. So,
you know, that is one of my pet peeves also when it comes
down to the measurements of our children. You know, we
talk about the Headstart population, early childhood
development. You know? You know, when I see some of
their tests or whatever that's being brought up to me, to
me there's really no significance to what -- of how that
test is going to measure our Native kids also. So those
are just some of the things that, Tony, I'll be looking
towards BIE in the near future.

Okay. Thanks.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

Just to address your question about the
budget, as you know, on May 23rd, 2017, the President
released his budget. It's $2.5 billion in FY18 for Indian
Affairs. That is $303 million below the 2017 CR baseline.
And I guess I can say right now, right now tribal
engagement is key to ensuring the tribal priorities are
met and the trust responsibility is upheld. It's
important to make sure your concerns are known to us and
to Congress. So if you can share those concerns, you
know, with the Congress and with the Department, that
would be helpful.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes. My response to that --
is it Mr. Janssen?

MR. JANSSEN: Yes.
MR. VELASQUEZ: You know, I understand where your versions of thinking is. Okay? I know where that is. I live in that world. Okay?

What I'm trying to say here as a leader of White Mountain is you are talking about the lobbying efforts with our senators and our house of representatives here in Arizona. That ain't a problem. My thinking is -- my hope is that Tony, Miles, and Hankie -- uncommon name, huh? -- that you three, by the time you leave here, you guys will have a clear understanding of what the thinkings of the leaders are here. Because who is it to say and who is it not to say that -- everything that is brought here is brought here. But we can't read the United States Congress, too, when it comes to cutting budgets.

That's why my thinking is what lies ahead for Indian Health Services. I understand that 300-some million. I have read that. It's in here. Okay? But my thinking is you guys are falling short of telling the leaders where exactly, where exactly is the emphasis here. But I'm thinking that in a few days or down the road we'll have a clear understanding so that we know as tribes. As tribes --

Like good example, the burial assistance. You know, my Tribe, we -- you know, we can't control death. You know? Only one that controls death is the
Creator. You know? Unfortunately, there's some reservations that experience the continuance of people leaving this earth.

But even that, my concern is they are also -- because we have a lot of our tribal members that are -- can't afford the funeral expenses. So there's a norm -- there's that norm. There has always been that norm that Bureau of Indian Affairs have a certain amount of money that will help in terms of, you know, putting our -- burying our people. But now even that is so limited now that now my people are beginning to think, okay, what do we do now?

So I know part of it is trying to reteach our Tribal members about the likelihoods of maybe perhaps discussing to go this way in terms of, you know, sponsoring this in terms for our loved ones. But that's another area of concern that comes to me. But a lot of it is, you know, the taxations, the economy, the land, the natural resources, all of that, you know. You know, to me that's very important to the Apache people.

You know, and my son, who is also an attorney at law, has given me some specific insights about him telling me that I need to be very concerned about the budget that's coming up. That is why I'm here. That is why we cancelled a lot of our trip, because I wanted to be
here. You know, I want to know where we're going. I want
to know what's going on in terms of what -- what is the
thinking of the White House in terms of the lower economic
people, the Native people, the sovereignty, the tribal
sovereignty. Those are the three emphasis that I have.
That's why I speak what I speak and I'll continue to speak
what I speak also.

Thank you.

MR. DEARMAN: I want to address your
assessment question. I totally agree. I mean, I come
from being a superintendent for Riverside Indian School
where we had 75 different tribes represented from 23
different states, and I've given them the Oklahoma state
assessment. We do have an opportunity to have one
assessment, and we are going to be sending out letters to
our tribes asking for members for a negotiated rulemaking
committee.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Good.

MR. DEARMAN: And hopefully -- my wish is
that we come out of that committee with a recommendation
of one assessment for all of our schools with the
exception of our tribes that are -- have their own
accountability system. But we are working on that, and I
agree totally with you.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Okay. Thank you.
MS. ORTIZ: Mr. Vice Chairman, I want to say thank you very much for your comments, and I'm glad that you are here and you are putting your comments on the record. So everything that you have stated is going on the record.

I think at this point decisions haven't been made on a lot of these issues, and that's why we are here. We are listening to what's important to you. All of this will be recorded and all these comments will be noted.

I do want to make a special note that, you know, Indian Health Service is under the Department of Health & Human Services, so I'm not really sure what their consultation is or listening sessions are that they are having. That is a separate department, so I would encourage you to speak with them about your comments directly related to those health issues.

Likewise, with the -- I know you talked about Veterans Affairs, Veterans Affairs issues. Different agency. So we will have all those issues recorded for us, but might be important for you to communicate those with the other agencies too.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Okay.

MS. ORTIZ: And as Mr. Janssen noted, the budget has been published for FY18. The President's proposed budget, that will be going to Congress, and they
will be making some decisions on that. So I think if you have specific comments on that, you know, you could probably put those on the record for us. Any comments that you are going to submit, that would probably be helpful.

Thank you.

MR. VELASQUEZ: I think the reason why I said what I said in terms of Indian Health Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs is because, you know, you are here to facilitate. And, you know, I feel that, you know, facilitation is excellent. At the same time, everything that's being brought up will also be disseminated to the organizations. And as tribes, we can also clarify that in writing also. So I agree with you on that. Okay.

MS. ORTIZ: Thank you.

MS. HAMANA: Good morning. My name is Candace Hamana. Candace is spelled C-a-n-d-a-c-e, last name H-a-m-a-n-a.

I am both Hopi and Navajo. I am not a tribal leader, but I am a vigilant and concerned voter, both for my indigenous community and local, state, and federal elections as well.

For my public comment, I would implore President Trump and Secretary Zinke to extend the deadline
to gather public comments, considering the tremendous potential impacts of such sweeping reorganizations of vital agencies.

Tribal consultations, if that's what you want to call this, should not just be about checking the box. We deserve more time to get this information about listening sessions out to our remote tribal communities. In order to truly move forward, we will require a more pragmatic and inclusive approach that will result in higher participation from our indigenous communities. I respectfully ask that we extend the deadline for public comments.

Thank you.

MR. JANSSEN: Thank you.

MR. BEGAYE: Mr. Chairman, maybe you want to talk about your schedule, where the hearings will be from this point? That might be good to know. And your timeline.

MR. JANSSEN: So I mentioned before we had a previous listening session in Portland on May 25th, at ATNI, regarding reorganization. Obviously we are having this one today. The next meeting for reorganization will occur on June 6th at Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel in Prior, Minnesota. Then there will be an additional listening session on June 8th at the Rushmore Civic Center in Rapid
City, South Dakota. Then a reorganization listening session on Monday, June 12th, NCAI, at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. And then the final reorganization listening session will be June 27th at the Tulsa Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

So those are the upcoming listening sessions on reorganization. But we are accepting written comments on reorganization up until July 15th. So the times on that, the June 6th one is from 8:30 to noon. It’s at Prior Lake, Minnesota. The June 8th is also 8:30 to noon in Rapid City. The one at in NCAI is from 1:00 p.m. to 2:45, and then the one in Tulsa is 8:30 to noon as well.

MR. BEGAYE: Let me ask another logistic question. Are these listening sessions for restructuring also being held by other federal agencies, HUD, Department of Energy, USDA, others?

MR. JANSSEN: I know that OMB issued a federal notice in the -- issued a notice of requesting that agencies hold listening sessions. I'm not sure if they are, though.

MR. BURSON: Miles, can you repeat President Begaye's question?

MR. JANSSEN: He asked if other agencies were going to hold listening sessions, like HUD, USDA. And I'm not aware if those agencies are holding listening
sessions at this time.

    So if there's no additional comments or questions, I'll bring this portion of the listening session to a close on reorganization. We will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. in this very same room to discuss the monument executive order. So we'll see everyone back here at 1:00 p.m.

    Thank you.

    * * * * * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

I CERTIFY that I have complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206 J(1)(g)(1) and (2). Dated at Glendale, Arizona, this 12th day of June, 2017.

_______________________________________
KIMBERLY PORTIK, RPR, CRR
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Arizona CR No. 50149

*      *      *      *      *      *      *

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