



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

**MAY 14 2021**

Dear Tribal Leader:

As part of our efforts to increase opportunities for Indian-owned and operated businesses and implement Executive Order 13985: *Advancing Racial Equity and Support Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, I am pleased to announce draft revisions to regulations implementing the Buy Indian Act.

The Buy Indian Act provides Indian Affairs with the authority to set aside procurement contracts for qualified Indian-owned businesses, known as “Indian Economic Enterprises.” Regulations implementing the Act have been in place for more than five years. In that time, several revisions have been identified that would better allow Indian Affairs to realize the full potential of the Buy Indian Act.

The draft revisions would eliminate barriers to Indian Economic Enterprises from competing on certain construction contracts, expand Indian Economic Enterprises’ ability to subcontract construction work consistent with other socio-economic set-aside programs, and give greater preference to Indian Economic Enterprises when a deviation from the Buy Indian Act is necessary, among other updates.

The full text of the draft rule and a summary of the changes are available at:

<https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/buy-indian-act>

I invite you to attend one of the following webinar consultation sessions:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Please Register in Advance Using This Link:</b>
Tuesday, June 15, 2021	1 p.m. – 3 p.m. ET	<a href="https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6ba06de762ee918ae73e3d1e0eb826d0">https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e6ba06de762ee918ae73e3d1e0eb826d0</a>
Thursday, June 17, 2021	1 p.m. – 3 p.m. ET	<a href="https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaea437a5b3dbaaedd11362e4589435ff">https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaea437a5b3dbaaedd11362e4589435ff</a>

If you would like to provide written comments on this draft rule, please email them to [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) by 11:59 ET on June 25, 2021.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Mr. Christopher Bell, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at (202) 208-3458 or [christopher\\_bell@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christopher_bell@ios.doi.gov), or Ms. Elizabeth Appel, with the Indian Affairs Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action at (202) 273-4680 or [Elizabeth.appel@bia.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.appel@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

Bryan Newland  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs