



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

JUN 14 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to bring to your attention a recent Department of the Interior (Department) transmittal to members of Congress and the Appropriations Committees regarding matters related to Indian Affairs Contract Support Costs (CSC). For your convenience, a copy of the letter dated June 14, 2013, and the accompanying data tables are available online at www.bia.gov.

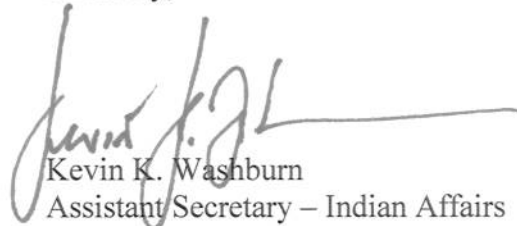
The national dialogue about CSC issues in recent months has made it clear that the demand for CSC funding has increased because of the increased costs of administering programs, services, functions, or activities assumed by tribes and tribal organizations under both Titles I (self-determination) and IV (self-governance) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Further, in its June 18, 2012 ruling in *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter*, the United States Supreme Court held that “not to exceed” language in past appropriations was not sufficient to limit the amount of CSC funds owed to tribal contractors.

In the June 14, 2013, letter to Congress, the Departments of the Interior and of Health and Human Services propose that the amount for CSC funding for each contract in FY 2014 will not exceed the amount of funding specified in this table for each contract. The Department’s letter provides a table based on the FY 2014 budget request and an estimate of contract support costs under each Title I self-determination contract and Title IV self-governance funding agreement, relying on information available to Indian Affairs as of April 30, 2013. The letter indicates that the Department will collaborate with Congress as the Appropriations Committees move through the FY 2014 appropriations process.

Please note that the Department’s letter indicates that it will provide an updated table with revised “not to exceed” amounts for each contract later in the process. Please submit any technical corrections for analysis via email to consultation@bia.gov within the next 45 days.

We look forward to being your partner as the Federal Government and Indian Affairs continue to work with tribes and Congress to develop a balanced, long-term solution.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs