



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 19, 2021

Dear CEO:

Recently, the Department of the Interior announced Tribal consultation regarding the Presidential Memorandum of January 26, 2021, Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships. In conjunction with this effort, we are also seeking your input on how to improve consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations at our upcoming sessions. Interior is required to consult with ANCSA Corporations on actions that have “a substantial direct effect” on ANCSA Corporations and we invite your feedback on how to improve the consultation process when those matters arise. We have attached a framing paper to help facilitate the discussion. The framing paper also includes questions for you to consider.

We’ve grouped the sessions by region so we kindly ask you join the call that includes the Alaska region to help ensure sufficient lines are available. We plan to prioritize input from Tribal leaders in the designated regions on these regional calls. If you are unable to join the call for the Alaska region, please feel free to join another instead.

<b>For Tribes in BIA Regions:</b>	<b>Date (2021)</b>	<b>Time (Eastern Time)</b>	<b>Call-In Number</b>	<b>Passcode</b>
Great Plains, Midwest, Rocky Mountain	Monday, March 8	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	(888) 843-9206	9530360
Eastern, Eastern Oklahoma, Southern Plains	Wednesday, March 10	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	(877) 601-4492	3173996
Navajo, Southwest, Western	Wednesday, March 10	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	(800) 857-9872	3906969
Alaska, Northwest, Pacific	Friday, March 12	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	(877) 601-4492	3173996

I appreciate that you have other extraordinary demands upon your time given the pandemic and its impacts, but our schedule for this consultation is necessarily aggressive to meet the deadlines established in the Presidential Memorandum. I sincerely hope that you will be able to join a session and/or provide your written input to [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) by midnight ET on March 19, 2021.

I look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort in the meantime, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Appel, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action at [elizabeth.appel@bia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.appel@bia.gov) or (202) 738-6065.

Very Truly,

ANN BLEDSOE  
DOWNES

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Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes  
Tribal Governance Officer  
Acting Deputy Solicitor, Indian Affairs

Attachment