



THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR - 2 2006

Dear Tribal Leader,

In a Tribal Leader letter dated December 27, 2005, you received a compact disc containing preliminary drafts of regulations necessary to implement the American Indian Probate Reform Act and the Fiduciary Trust Model. We held the first consultation session in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 14 -15, 2006. During this session, we received a number of requests for additional time to provide comments on the draft regulations. Based on these requests, we are extending the time to provide initial comments from March 3, 2006 to March 31, 2006.

At this point, we would like to further clarify our goals for the consultation process and offer more details on the Regulatory Initiative schedule. Given the volume of the draft regulations and the varied subjects, we will focus the next consultation meeting on the following areas which are necessary to successfully implement the American Indian Probate Reform Act when it becomes effective in June 2006:

Probate/Life Estates (25 CFR 15; 43 CFR 4; 25 CFR 18 and 43 CFR 4)
Land Records and Title Documents (25 CFR 150)
Land Disposals/Conveyances (25 CFR 152)

Our next consultation meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. Comments received at this meeting will be considered prior to the publication of the draft regulations in the Federal Register.

We are requesting that Tribes, tribal leaders, trust beneficiaries and other individuals working with and on behalf of these groups submit all comments on these draft regulations no later than March 31, 2006, so that Interior can consider those comments before publishing the proposed regulations in the Federal Register in April 2006. Once published as proposed rules in the Federal Register, a new sixty-day (60) public comment period will begin.

You may submit your comments in writing to Michele Singer, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 4141, Washington, DC 20240. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Singer at (202) 273-4680.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these very important trust management reform regulations.

Sincerely,

James E. Cason