



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

NOV 15 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Indian Affairs officials who serve you strive to base each decision they make on solid reasoning and a complete and factual record; however, when one of those decisions adversely affects you, you may administratively appeal the decision to the next higher official within Indian Affairs. The regulations that establish the process for administrative appeals are located at 25 CFR Part 2. These regulations have not been updated for 30 years and do not reflect the current structure of Indian Affairs.

Today, I share with you a "Discussion Draft" version of revisions to the administrative appeal regulations. These revisions are intended to:

- Clarify how to appeal actions from each Indian Affairs official;
- Clarify timelines and filing deadlines;
- Make the regulations easier to understand and use; and
- Add provisions to address matters not covered in the current regulations, such as appeals of Office of the Special Trustee Statements of Performance.

I invite you to review the Discussion Draft and provide written comments to consultation@bia.gov by February 14, 2020, and/or attend one of the following consultation sessions.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, January 22, 2020	1 p.m. – 4 p.m. EST	(877) 918-2309 Passcode 2758156
TBD Week of February 10, 2020	1 p.m. – 4 p.m. EST	Capital Hilton 1001 16th St. NW Washington, DC 20036NCAI Executive Council Session

The full text of the Discussion Draft and updated information on consultation sessions are available at: <https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-and-other-documents-in-development>.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Elizabeth Appel, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, at (202) 273-4680, or Elizabeth.appel@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs