



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 04 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

Although the lapse in Federal appropriations prevented us from holding consultations in January, I remain committed to scheduling sessions in Bethel and Kotzebue, Alaska, to hear your comments on the Department of the Interior's (Interior) implementation of the Alaska IRA and the authority to take land into trust in Alaska. I hope you will attend at one of the following sessions rescheduled in March.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Alaska IRA session: Noon to 2 p.m.

Land-into-trust session: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Yup'it Piciryarait Cultural Center Center

420 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway Bethel, AK 99559

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Alaska IRA session: 10 a.m. to Noon

Land-into-trust session: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center

171 Third Ave, Kotzebue, AK 99752

The topics of the consultation sessions are the same as previously announced in the July 2, 2018 letter. The morning sessions will be devoted to discussing Interior's implementation of the 1936 amendment to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934¹ (IRA), known as the Alaska IRA.² The afternoon sessions will address the Secretary of the Interior's exercise of authority to take land into trust in Alaska and issues left unresolved by the Solicitor's Opinion M-37043. The July 2, 2018 letter and other background information is available at the Website:

<https://www.indianaffairs.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-development-and-or-under-review/alaska-ira-and-land-trust-alaska>.

We are also extending the deadline for submitting written comments to **March 15, 2019**. If you have not already done so, please submit your comments by that date to consultation@bia.gov.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information on this effort, please contact Mr. Tyler Fish, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

¹ Pub. L. No. 73-383, 48 Stat. 984 (1934).

² Pub. L. 74-538, 49 Stat. 1250 (1936).