



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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To (Recipient): Cason, James
From (Author): Anoatubby, Bill; Floyd, James R.; Batton, Gary; Harjo, Leonard M.; Baker, Bill John

Governor
The Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821

Subject Text: Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes re: Concerns with DOI Reorganization and changes to BIA/IA Leadership

Req. Surnames:

Mail Carrier: EMAIL **Mail Track #:**

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Copies To: SIO-OES

Status Tracking:

Correspondence Specialist and Phone: SIO-OES-Steve Lowery/202-208-5291

Closed
Comments:

Signed:

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

008364



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief

June 27, 2017

Mr. James Cason
Associate Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Dear Mr. Cason:

We write today on behalf of the more than 650,000 citizens of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations to respectfully request that the scheduled consultations and listening sessions regarding a reorganization of the Department of the Interior ("Tribal Listening Sessions on E.O. 13871: Reorganization of the Executive Branch") occur prior to any further Department action on this initiative.



Gary Batton
Chief

In a May 16 letter to tribal leaders, Acting AS-IA Michael Black requested input on how the Department ... could be reorganized to help streamline services to tribes and better fulfill the Federal Government's trust and treaty responsibilities." The letter invited tribes to share their views at one of six listening sessions.



James R. Floyd
Principal Chief

It was quite discouraging to learn that the Department may have already begun what the Washington Post deemed a "broad reorganization." The paper reported that Secretary Zinke is reassigning "three dozen or more" senior career officials, including Acting AS-IA Black and BIA Director Bruce Loudermilk.



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

In order for our tribes to continue to work effectively with the federal government, it is imperative that tribal leader input is considered before action is taken on reorganization or the reassignment of key personnel. The federal government has trust obligations to tribes, and Interior agencies fulfill that obligation. It is deeply concerning if tribal leader voices are not being considered when major changes are proposed.

It is equally concerning that the Department may look to disrupt activities at BIA regional offices across the United States. The tribes in eastern Oklahoma have developed an effective and cooperative government-to-government relationship with Regional Director Eddie Streater and his staff. The office structure enables us to process claims and address critical issues with haste, and as you know, timely communications and services support the livelihood of our citizens.

As tribal leaders, we are continuously seeking improved efficiencies within our tribal governments. We share this goal with the Department. That is why we urge you to allow the consultations and listening sessions to conclude before moving forward with

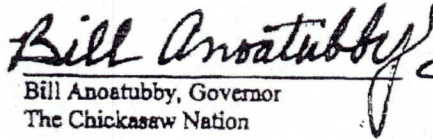
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2017 JUN 29 10:10
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

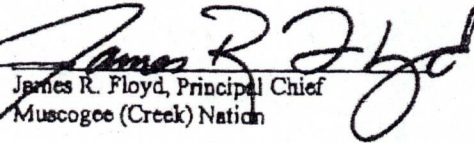
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

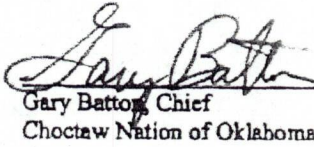
reorganization. This will help perpetuate an environment of cooperation and partnership, enabling us to work effectively together.

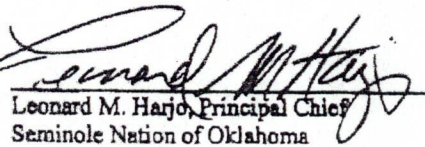
Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

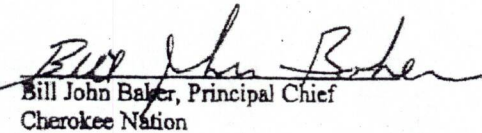
Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


James R. Floyd, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Inter-Tribal Council Request

1 message

Rees, Gareth <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
To: Robert Howarth <Robert_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jun 29, 2017 at 10:25 AM

See attached


----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill Baker** <Bill-Baker@cherokee.org>
Date: Tue, Jun 27, 2017 at 5:50 PM
Subject: Inter-Tribal Council Request
To: "James_cason@ios.doi.gov" <James_cason@ios.doi.gov>, "Gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov" <Gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

Please see the attached letter.

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Gareth C. Rees
Office to the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Tel: 202-208-6291
Fax: 202-208-1873
Cell: 202-957-8299

 **ITC June 2017 - DOI Reorganization.pdf**
1180K

To Mike Black = DR