



SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

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June 16, 2018

Delivery Via Email to consultation@bia.gov

John Tahsuda Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. MS-4606
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Fee to Trust 25 CFR 151 Consultation Comments

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Tahsuda:

On behalf of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC or Community) please accept these comments as a part of the public record for the fee-to-trust 25 CFR 151 regulation consultation. The Community attended the February 20, 2018 consultation session held in Phoenix, Arizona and understands this consultation process to be a "discussion" about the proposed regulations and not part of the formal rule making process.

At this time, the Community's only comment is that the fee-to-trust process is fundamental to restoring tribal traditional homelands and mitigating the damage of the Dawes Act of 1887 (also known as the General Allotment Act). Any amendment of this important land restoration process, must be conducted through a meaningful rulemaking process where the tribes have an equal voice at the table to that of the Department of the Interior. Tribes are the paramount stakeholder in the fee-to-trust process, and must participate if any possible changes to the fee-to-trust process are drafted or proposed.

On behalf of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, thank you for the due diligence performed by the Department in this regulatory process. If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact Gary Bohnee, Special Assistant on Congressional and Legislative Affairs at gary.bohnee@srpmic-nsn.gov or (480) 362-2737.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delbert Ray, Sr.", with a stylized circular mark to the right.

Delbert Ray, Sr., President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

cc: SRPMIC Council