



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 02 2019

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service, is establishing a Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project and an Alaska Native Demonstration Project. We would like your input on defining criteria for eligibility.

The purpose of the projects will be to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and, electricity generation) by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land. For each fiscal year in which the projects are authorized, the Department of the Interior plans to carry out at least four projects on Indian forest land and nearby Tribal communities, and at least one project in Alaska, in accordance with the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017 (Public Law 115-325) (Act).

The Act requires us to proceed on an accelerated schedule for establishment of the Demonstration Project, but your input on the eligibility criteria is the first step in establishing a Project that will be meaningful for Indian Country. Because of the accelerated schedule, we will be hosting a Tribal consultation by telephone on Friday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Call-in information is:

Call-in number: 888 -324-2907
Passcode: 8756820

If you are unable to participate in the above session, but would still like to provide input, please email your input to consultation@bia.gov by April 19, 2019. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Mr. Tyler Fish at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs