



SEP 23 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

Recent events have highlighted the need for a broader review and consultation as to how, prospectively, Federal decisionmaking on infrastructure projects can better allow for timely and meaningful tribal input. On behalf of the Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of the Army, and other Federal agencies, we invite you to consultations on how the Federal Government can better account for, and integrate tribal views, on future infrastructure decisions throughout the country. Consistent with our nation-to-nation relationship, our consultations are with tribal leaders and your designated staff. In particular, we have identified the following questions we seek your input on:

- (1) How can Federal agencies better ensure meaningful tribal input into infrastructure-related reviews and decisions, to protect tribal lands, resources, and treaty rights within the existing statutory framework?
- (2) Should the Federal agencies propose new legislation altering the statutory framework to promote these goals?

We will provide a framing paper with additional detail on these questions, including a description of the statutory framework currently in place. While these questions are of particular interest to the Federal agencies, we welcome any input relevant to the broader topic.

We respectfully request your participation in one of the following consultation sessions:

| <b>Date</b>             | <b>Meeting Time<br/>(local time)</b> | <b>Meeting Type</b> | <b>Location</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday<br>10/11/2016   | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.                | Listening Session   | Phoenix, Arizona (at the site of the National Congress of American Indians 73 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention) |
| Tuesday<br>10/25/2016   | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.               | Tribal Consultation | Seattle, Washington  |
| Thursday<br>10/27/2016  | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.               | Tribal Consultation | Albuquerque, New Mexico  |
| Wednesday<br>11/02/2016 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.               | Tribal Consultation | Billings, Montana  |

|                        |                        |  |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Tuesday<br>11/15/2016  | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Tribal Consultation                      | Minneapolis, Minnesota   |
| Thursday<br>11/17/2016 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Tribal Consultation                      | Rapid City, South Dakota |
| Monday<br>11/21/2016   | 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Tribal Consultation by<br>Teleconference | Teleconference           |


The framing paper, details on the consultation locations, and any additional information will be available at this website: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/TribalInput/index.htm>.

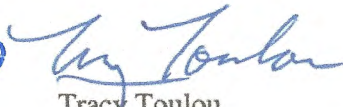
If you would like to provide written input, please send it by email to [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) or by mail to: Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, attn.: Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 3071, Washington, DC 20240. We will consider all written input we receive by Friday, November 30, 2016.

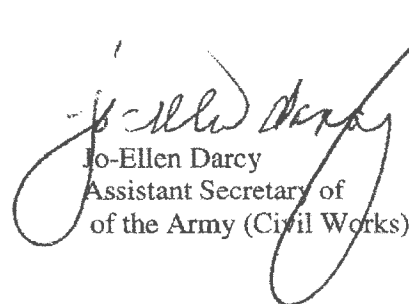
We recognize this is an aggressive consultation schedule, but we believe it is appropriate given the importance and urgency of the issues. If you have any questions regarding these sessions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Elizabeth K. Appel, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action, at (202)208-7163 or [elizabeth.appel@bia.gov](mailto:elizabeth.appel@bia.gov).

We understand that Tribal Nations' voices must be heard, in a timely and meaningful way, with regard to Federal decisions that could affect their treaties, homelands, environment, cultural properties, and sacred sites. We look forward to your input as to how our agencies, and the Federal Government as a whole, can improve Federal decision-making processes that affect Tribal lands, resources, and treaty rights to ensure that those decisions are fully consistent with our obligations to Tribal Nations.

Sincerely,

  
Lawrence S. Roberts  
Principal Deputy Assistant  
Secretary – Indian Affairs

  
Tracy Toulou  
Director  
Office of Tribal Justice

  
Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of  
of the Army (Civil Works)