



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

APR 14 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

As we navigate the complexities of our nation's fiscal realities, President Trump and his Administration are working to enhance government efficiency while upholding trust and treaty obligations across Indian Country. Our objective is to streamline operations while minimizing any potential impact on the quality of services provided to Tribes. To that end, Indian Affairs—which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs—seeks to engage directly with federally recognized Tribes to receive formal input on critical needs as we develop plans to implement operational improvements. Indian Affairs and other agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) remain committed to fulfilling our responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

On February 11, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) 14210 establishing the “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative, which aims to reform the Federal workforce to maximize efficiency and productivity. Under this directive, each agency is required to develop an Agency Reorganization Plan. In support of this effort, the Department is committed to receiving formal consultation feedback from Tribes regarding the EO and related topics, including:

- Restructuring of Indian Affairs to support more efficient interactions with Tribes:

In 2013, after a third-party review and extensive consultation, Indian Affairs implemented significant changes to the structure of the agency and how the agency interacts with Tribes. Indian Affairs remains committed to those efforts as well as the efforts of EO 14210 to be more efficient without diminishing the current levels of operational support and services to Tribes.

What recommendations would you make to Indian Affairs to improve efficiency through staffing changes, resource sharing, process improvements, and potential consolidation of programs and offices?

- Addressing current funding structures, including identifying efficiency barriers to expedite funding to Tribes and Tribal programs:

Indian Affairs understands that the funding structures and mechanisms for Tribal programs are complicated and include a combination of Tribal Priority Allocations, one-time awards, grant funding, formula funding, and other Federal funding sources. What recommendations would you make to Indian Affairs to improve access to Federal programs, funding, and services?

Indian Affairs is seeking input on how to better support Tribes by reducing the administrative burden to access and administer funding, improving communications with Tribes on funding opportunities, and improving technical assistance and direct support to Tribes to obtain and administer funding.

- Increasing Indian Affairs support for Tribal self-governance and self-determination:

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA; P.L. 93-638, 25 U.S.C. §§ 5301 *et seq.*) outlined federal policy on Tribal self-determination. Since the ISDEAA enactment, Congress has authorized the expansion of Tribal self-determination and self-governance across the Federal Government.

How can Indian Affairs optimize its functionality and effectiveness to provide Tribes with improved flexibility to foster economic growth, address the specific local needs of their communities, and increase pathways to self-determination and self-governance?

The Department will conduct six (6) in-person/hybrid and one (1) virtual Tribal consultation sessions to accept oral and written comments. Please note the Tribal consultation sessions will be closed to the press and the public to protect any confidential information that may be discussed during the formal consultation sessions.

The Department will also conduct one (1) virtual consultation session for interested parties of the BIE to provide oral and written comments. Parties include but are not limited to: students enrolled at BIE-funded schools, parents of such students, school administrators, school board members, and the Indian communities served by BIE-funded schools. Please note the BIE-specific consultation session will also be closed to the press to protect any confidential information that may be discussed during the formal consultation sessions.

We look forward to hearing from you at one or more of the following sessions:

CONSULTATION – ALASKA

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Alaska Daylight Savings Time

James M. Fitzgerald U. S. Courthouse and Federal Building
Conference Room
222 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99513

Federal Building – will require valid ID and security requirements for building entrance.

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/2j5kmf6c>

CONSULTATION – CALIFORNIA

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Pacific Daylight Savings Time

John E. Moss Federal Building
Stanford Room
650 Capital Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Federal Building – will require valid ID and security requirements for building entrance.

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4kaw23na>

CONSULTATION – ALBUQUERQUE

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 pm Mountain Daylight Savings Time

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Auditorium
9169 Coors Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87121

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycj9f9y9>

CONSULTATION – MINNESOTA

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Central Daylight Savings Time

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Visitor Center Auditorium
3815 American Blvd E
Bloomington, MN 55425

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/f5teu4ur>

CONSULTATION – VIRTUAL – BIE INTERESTED PARTIES

Date: Friday, May 30, 2025
Type: Virtual for the BIE Interested Parties
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Eastern Time

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/5acbm7us>

CONSULTATION – OKLAHOMA

Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 – 3:30 pm Central Daylight Savings Time

Supreme Court of Oklahoma
Judicial Center Auditorium
2100 North Lincoln
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Federal Building – will require valid ID and security requirements for building entrance.

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/3x2bzf98>

CONSULTATION – WASHINGTON, DC

Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025
Type: In-person and Virtual (Hybrid) Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time

U.S. Department of the Interior
Yates Auditorium
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Federal Building – will require valid ID and security requirements for building entrance.

Zoom registration link:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdemyc49>

CONSULTATION – VIRTUAL

Date: Friday, June 6, 2025
Type: Virtual Tribal Consultation
Session: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Zoom registration link:

<https://tinyurl.com/txhp98ua>

The language of EO 14210 is located at <https://tinyurl.com/3x5rzk6u>. Indian Affairs recommends reviewing the language prior to attending a session or submitting written comments to provide meaningful feedback. Your feedback will help Indian Affairs define the next steps.

We welcome your written comments, which must be submitted either by email to consultation@bia.gov, or by mail to the Department of the Interior, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, 1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 229, Albuquerque, NM 87104, **by 11:59 pm ET on Monday, July 7, 2025.**

If you have any questions regarding the Tribal consultations, please contact Oliver Whaley, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, by phone at (202) 738-6065 or by email at oliver.whaley@bia.gov.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Davis
Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior
Exercising the delegated authority of the
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs