



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 26 2023

Dear Tribal Leader:

On November 29, 2022, Congress passed the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-196. The STOP Act aims to prevent the international export of cultural items prohibited from trafficking under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

The Department of the Interior (Department) seeks Tribal input on the development of draft regulations for the STOP Act. The STOP Act directs the Department, in coordination with the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security, to regulate export of Tribal cultural items, facilitate voluntary repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items from overseas back to Tribes in the United States, and to operate a program (authorized up to \$3 million annually) to carry out core functions of issuing export certificates, consulting with Tribes, managing databases and workflows, collecting fees and fines, coordinating interagency and Native committees, training, temporary holding (repository) and other operational requirements.

The Department seeks your input on the following questions:

1. Which Assistant Secretary, Bureau or Office within the Department of the Interior should be responsible for the STOP Act program?
2. What types of interagency agreements would be helpful for the program and for Act implementation?
3. What should or should not be included in the draft regulations?

The Department will conduct five consultation sessions listed below and will accept oral and written comments. Please note that these Tribal consultations will be closed to the press and the public to protect confidential information that may be discussed during the sessions. We look forward to speaking with you at one or more of the following sessions:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, May 31, 2023	4:30pm – 6:30pm CT	U.S. Geological Survey Conference Room Oklahoma – Texas Walker Science Center Bldg #8 202 NW 66th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Friday, July 14, 2023	4:30pm – 6:30pm AT	Bureau of Land Management Fairbanks District Office Kobuk Conference Room 222 University Ave Fairbanks AK 99709

Thursday, July 27, 2023	2:30pm – 4:30pm ET	Virtual on Zoom Please pre-register at https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsf-urpjMqHMo46mmyCkEbJ6u1kXNFr1Q
Tuesday, August 8, 2023	3:00pm – 5:00pm ET	Virtual on Zoom Please pre-register at https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItfu-urj8qHjtJVkEvU8WNvb8oxFJCEF4
Friday, August 18, 2023	9:00am – 12:00pm MT	BLM New Mexico State Office Amarillo Creek / Canadian Rooms 301 Dinosaur Trail Santa Fe, NM 87508

We welcome your written comments, which should be submitted by email to consultation@bia.gov by 11:59pm ET on Friday, August 25, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Samuel Kohn, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, via email at samuel.kohn@bia.gov, Joaquin Gallegos, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs via email at joaquin_gallegos@ios.doi.gov, or Rachel Brown, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management, and Budget via email at rachel_brown@ios.doi.gov.

We look receiving your input on this matter.

Sincerely,



Joan Mooney
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy,
Management, Budget



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs