

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DTLL CONSULTATION ON INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (1:03 p.m.)

3 MR. NEWLAND: Give us one moment,
4 everybody, while everyone's audio and video
5 connects and then we'll get started today.

6 Okay. It looks like everyone who was in
7 the waiting room is in.

8 Good afternoon, good morning, happy
9 holidays, everybody. Thank you for joining us
10 today. My name is Bryan Newland. I serve as the
11 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs here at the
12 Department of the Interior and I'm happy to be
13 with all of you today on this
14 government-to-government consultation on the
15 Department's Inflation Reduction Act spending
16 plan.

17 Before we get started, I want to make
18 sure that I state very clearly that this is a
19 government-to-government consultation and this is
20 not a meeting that is open to the general public
21 or the media. So if you are a journalist or
22 reporter or a member of the press, we would kindly

1 ask you to disconnect at this time and we would be
2 happy to follow up through our press office at the
3 Department.

4 So, with that, I always want to make
5 sure we start these consultations off in an
6 appropriate way. And today we have with us
7 Councilwoman Dionne Crawford from the Sisseton-
8 Wahpeton Oyate to lead us with an opening prayer
9 and a blessing.

10 MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you Assistant
11 Secretary Newland and thank you for asking me to
12 pray for us. It's a great honor to be asked to
13 pray for our people. (Speaks in Native language).
14 We say wopida for this beautiful day to (speaks in
15 Native language). We ask that you watch over
16 everybody who will be participating in this
17 meeting and we ask (speaks in Native language)
18 that you help us to open our hearts and our minds
19 to hear all the words that everybody will be
20 bringing to this meeting, (speaks in Native
21 language). To (speaks in Native language) we ask
22 that you watch over and bless our leadership that

1 have made this possible that though this involves
2 money, (speaks in Native language), we also
3 understand that these resources are given to our
4 Tribes and our people across the Nation to help
5 improve their lives, to help them, to feed them,
6 and to support them, and we ask (speaks in Native
7 language) that you help us to make the best
8 decisions possible for our people. (Speaks in
9 Native language) we say wopida, for President
10 Biden, for Vice President Harris, especially for
11 Secretary Holland and Assistant Secretary Newland,
12 and for all of the leadership and people working
13 with our Tribes and with our government. To
14 (speaks in Native language), we ask that you watch
15 over each and every one of the leaders that from
16 every Tribe across the Nation, (speaks in Native
17 language), that you watch over them and take care
18 of their families (speaks in Native language). I
19 ask especially that you watch over the leadership
20 and the people of the Great Plains (speaks in
21 Native language), as we are undergoing a very
22 terrible and dangerous storm right now. To

1 (speaks in Native language), I pray that you keep
2 each and every one of our people safe and warm and
3 fed in the best way that you can, (speaks in
4 Native language). Wopida for these meetings,
5 wopida for all the many blessings that you bestow
6 upon each and every one of us (speaks in Native
7 language), and we ask that you continue to watch
8 us over us and guide us, speak to us and show us,
9 (speaks in Native language), so that we make good
10 solid decisions for our people who depend on us so
11 heavily.

12 This responsibility is a great one
13 (speaks in Native language), but we know that each
14 and every one of us come to this with our hearts
15 in the right place. (Speaks in Native language),
16 continue to watch over us and take care of us in
17 the best way that you can, (speaks in Native
18 language).

19 (Speaks in Native language).

20 MR. NEWLAND: (Speaks in Native
21 language.) Many thanks, Councilwoman. I
22 appreciate the prayer and of course we're all

1 hoping everyone in our Plains communities are safe
2 and warm and healthy with the storm. It's -- you
3 know that these winter storms are always tough,
4 especially this time of year.

5 So I want to thank all of you again for
6 taking some time with us today on this
7 government-to-government consultation. I know that
8 you're all very busy on behalf of your Tribes and
9 your communities and your people this time of
10 year. Closing out, trying to organize things with
11 your families, trying to make sure that you're
12 responding to the requests for assistance at the
13 community level, people are trying to get ready
14 for the holidays. And know how busy you are all
15 are, so it means a lot to us that you're here with
16 us today.

17 We have a number of folks from across
18 the Department of Interior and across the Indian
19 Affairs organization here who are with us today.
20 So I'm just going to acknowledge them first before
21 we continue. We have with us Winnie Stachelberg,
22 who is Secretary Holland's Infrastructure

1 Coordinator. We also have with us our Principal
2 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Wizipan Little Elk
3 Garriott, our Deputy Assistant Secretary for
4 Management, Jason Freihage, Onna LeBeau, who is
5 the Director of the Office of Indian Economic
6 Development, Sean Henderson, who is our new Indian
7 Affairs Infrastructure and Economic Development
8 Coordinator, Trina Locke, who is our Acting Deputy
9 BIA Director for Trust Service, Crystal Keys is
10 with us, she is our Acting Director of Tribal
11 Climate Resilience, and David Wooten, who is our
12 Chief of the Office of Trust Services Fisheries,
13 Wildlife, and Recreation Branch. And we also have
14 I believe with us a good friend and colleague from
15 the Department of Energy, Wahleah Jones.

16 So we're going to start today by some
17 introductory remarks from Winnie Stachelberg and
18 then we're going to go into a presentation of what
19 the Department has proposed, and then get to the
20 most important part, which is hearing from all of
21 you.

22 So, with that, I want to turn the floor

1 over to Winnie, who has been just a wonderful
2 leader for the Department on all of these funding
3 issues under President Biden's leadership.

4 Winnie?

5 MS. STACHELBERG: Thank you so much.
6 Assistant Secretary Newland, Councilwoman
7 Crawford, for that beautiful prayer, to all of you
8 here, it is an honor to speak with you all today.

9 In Secretary Holland's words, we here at
10 the Department of the Interior have a solemn duty
11 to honor and strengthen the Federal Government's
12 nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes. We
13 understand the weight of our responsibility
14 towards the Tribal Nations and that consultation
15 has to be a two way nation-to-nation exchange of
16 information.

17 This gathering is an important entirely
18 necessary step to developing our obligations to
19 you all as leaders in your Nations. To that end,
20 and in the sacred capacity, the Department is
21 lucky to have leaders like Assistant Secretary
22 Newland and Secretary Holland driving us forward

1 in such important ways.

2 My name is Winnie Stachelberg and I am
3 Senior Advisor to the Secretary, as well as the
4 Infrastructure Coordinator at the Department of
5 the Interior. My vantage point as Infrastructure
6 Coordinator at DOI is unique. My work is at the
7 intersection of all the different bureaus and
8 offices. So I can tell you honestly and frankly
9 that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the
10 Inflation Reduction Act have created for us
11 historic opportunities, which span the entirety of
12 government.

13 As the BIL coordinator for Interior, we
14 have had a lot of lessons learned from our first
15 year of BIL implementation. One of our major
16 goals this week is to hear directly from you all
17 how we can make these opportunities more
18 accessible. And I want to let you now we continue
19 to integrate your feedback as we continue to
20 implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and
21 begin to implement the Inflation Reduction Act.

22 For example, we continue to work across

1 Interior and with our Federal partners to increase
2 technical assistance and partner building
3 capacity. I'm happy to announce and to share, as
4 Assistant Secretary Newland did, that Indian
5 Affairs recently added Sean Henderson as the
6 Coordinator to support technical assistance and
7 interagency action. This position is critical to
8 providing support to Tribes to access these
9 critical programs and implement them effectively.
10 Our hope is that the addition of more capacity on
11 our end will lead to more positive outcomes across
12 the board.

13 Additionally, through the White House
14 Council on Native American Affairs, the
15 Administration hosted a whole of government
16 consultation of implementation of Buy America,
17 Build America requirements to inform
18 implementation. And just today the Administration
19 released an Inflation Reduction Act playbook, just
20 like we did for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
21 The playbook will facilitate your ability to
22 access eligible programs.

1 I look forward to hearing your input on
2 the Indian Affairs programs to be discussed today
3 and look forward to our ongoing work together to
4 implement these programs. As President Biden has
5 said, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the
6 Inflation Reduction Act constitute a historic once
7 in a generation investment in our Nation's
8 infrastructure. Our build teams in support of the
9 world class team the Bureau of Indian Affairs is
10 at your disposal to ensure the spirit of these
11 initiatives is realized in your communities.

12 We are here to support you all. And
13 with that, I will turn it back to Assistant
14 Secretary Newland. Thank you so much. I'm
15 honored to be here.

16 MR. NEWLAND: (Speaks in Native
17 language.) Thank you so much, Winnie, for your
18 time with us and all of your work on getting this
19 money out the door and where it's needed and where
20 it can do -- make a positive impact in people's
21 lives.

22 And for those of you joining too, I just

1 want to emphasize the playbook, the IRA playbook
2 that Winnie just mentioned. Often times when
3 we're working on behalf of Tribal governments,
4 it's hard to keep track of where this funding is
5 flowing and which agency has which pot of money
6 and how to access it. And these playbooks are
7 really designed to help you navigate all of that
8 and just have a very clear picture of what money
9 is available and where it comes from and how to
10 access it.

11 So thank you, Winnie, again for your
12 time. So we're going to now go into the
13 presentations for -- or the overview of the
14 Department's proposal. But I just want to give a
15 very short overview of the overview before I turn
16 it over to Trina Locke.

17 The IRA provides a total of \$385 million
18 in critical investments here at the Department of
19 the Interior. This includes \$225 million for
20 climate resilience and adaptation, it includes \$10
21 million for fish hatcheries operations and
22 maintenance, it also includes \$150 million for a

1 new Tribal electrification program. And our plan
2 is to allocate this funding over two years in FY
3 '23 and FY '24 in order to jump start
4 implementation.

5 And this funding, of course, is on top
6 of the \$260 million in funding from the
7 President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
8 investments for climate resilience and adaption
9 projects.

10 So our first presenter today is Trina
11 Locke. As I mentioned earlier, Trina is the
12 Acting Director for the Office of Trust Services.
13 And she is going to walk us through the climate
14 resilience and adaptation portion of the IRA
15 funds, as well as the fish hatchery programs.

16 So, with that, I'll turn it over to you,
17 Trina.

18 MS. LOCKE: All right, thank you.
19 Hello, everyone. Again, my name is Trina Locke
20 and I'm an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa,
21 and Arikara Nation and I'm serving as the Acting
22 Deputy Bureau Director for the Office of Trust

1 Services. And I'm excited to discuss some of the
2 new opportunities brought forth under the
3 Inflation Reduction Act, otherwise known as the
4 IRA.

5 The climate resilience and adaption
6 portion of the IRA funding calls for \$220 million
7 dedicated to community directed relocation
8 projects and the Annual Tribal Climate Resilience
9 Awards Program. \$128 million, \$64 million per
10 year for both FY 2023 and FY 2024, will support
11 the Tribes, Tribal consortia, and authorized
12 Tribal organizations to plan for climate
13 resilience through competitive awards. This
14 increases the award ceiling by an additional \$14
15 million per year in both FY '23 and '24.
16 Presently these awards include Tribally- designed
17 climate training, adaption planning, vulnerability
18 assessments, supplemental monitoring, capacity
19 building, youth engagement, and implementation.

20 The branch of Tribal Climate Resilience
21 has examined the opportunities to enhance the
22 current discretionary annual awards program by

1 offering additional flexibility to Tribes based on
2 feedback and the DOI Equity Action Plan. The
3 proposed structure will condense all current
4 offerings into two overarching categories --
5 planning and implementation -- to broaden the
6 scope of the types of proposals Tribes are
7 eligible to commit.

8 The \$92 million for community driven
9 relocation projects will award \$46 million per
10 year in both FY '23 and FY '24. Utilizing funding
11 provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the
12 BIA launched efforts to assist Tribes with
13 community drive relocation efforts by establishing
14 a White House community drive relocation
15 subcommittee, allowing for relocation planning and
16 implementation, proposals under the FY '22 annual
17 awards program. And most recently the Department
18 announced the community driven relocation pilot
19 projects for both implementation awards and
20 planning and preparation. Combined with BIL
21 funding, IRA funding has potential to withstand
22 these efforts.

1 Next slide. As mentioned on the
2 previous slide, modifications to the current
3 annual award structure may allow for planning and
4 implementation criteria to broaden the focus for
5 activities eligible for funding. IRA funding may
6 add to current offerings by increasing funding
7 caps currently in place, provide greater
8 flexibility to allow for Tribal projects that
9 previously did not fit into the narrowly defined
10 categories, and add such offerings as habitat
11 restoration, help communities prepare for, cope
12 with, and recover from disasters, and encourage
13 Tribal communities to develop projects which draw
14 the benefits of nature based solutions.

15 IRA funding may also contribute to
16 boosting Tribal equity in competitive awards by
17 proposing cost matching for Tribes seeking other
18 Federal agency funding opportunities, encourage
19 interagency collaboration, increase capacity
20 building proposals, and explore with other grant
21 providing Federal agencies with their
22 opportunities to adopt common application

1 standards as a part of a government wide effort to
2 improve efficiency in the award application
3 process.

4 The criteria used for selection of the
5 BIL funded community driven relocation are risk,
6 community readiness, plans in place, land
7 identified, and lessons learned. These standards
8 are anticipated to remain in place for expansion
9 under IRA funding. Additional criteria for
10 planning preparation awards will including risk
11 diversity and geographic diversity.

12 Next slide. For the fish hatcheries,
13 IRA provides \$10 million to support expansion of
14 the existing fish hatchery maintenance program,
15 including new construction and retrofitting, which
16 are not funded through annual appropriate. The
17 expansion into this program allows BIA to address
18 outdated, undersized, and inefficient hatchery
19 systems. Funding will support advancing
20 production goals and funding will also address
21 issues related to water quality, quantity, and
22 concerns regarding fish disease and/or genetics.

1 Next slide. Award criteria will focus
2 on construction projects at existing hatcheries to
3 overcome bottlenecks in production or construction
4 of entirely new hatcheries when strongly supported
5 by the ranking criteria. Criteria in the annual
6 program considers addressing economic value,
7 (inaudible) protection, Tribal ability to enforce
8 fish and game code policies to ensure health,
9 safety, and security, compliance with water
10 quality standards, incorporation of a Tribal youth
11 element.

12 These are ten year funds, however, OTS
13 does anticipate that they will go out within the
14 first few years. And I do have technical staff on
15 to answer any questions you may have.

16 Next slide. We're currently seeking
17 feedback on whether the criteria proposed to award
18 funding for climate resilience and fish hatcheries
19 seems appropriate, or should other criteria be
20 considered. And are the proposed funding
21 categories for climate resilience and adaptation
22 appropriate.

1 So this concludes my presentation. I'll
2 now turn to Onna LeBeau, Director of the Office of
3 Indian Economic Development, to talk about the
4 Tribal Electrification Program.

5 MS. LeBEAU: Thank you, Trina. Okay.
6 Our Tribal Electrification overview. Assistant
7 Secretary Newland stated \$150 million are
8 appropriated for electrification related needs.
9 \$4.5 million of the \$150 million will be for
10 administration of the program and this funding is
11 two rounds of funding over two years. The purpose
12 is to provide electricity to unelectrified Tribal
13 homes through zero emissions energy systems. We
14 understand the need across Indian country is
15 significant and each Tribe has its own energy and
16 electrification needs and implementation capacity.
17 We are designing this program to meet the unique
18 needs of individual Tribal communities.

19 We will be awarding funding through a
20 competitive process. The program will coordinate
21 financial and technical assistance to Tribes to
22 increase the number of Tribal homes with zero

1 emission electricity. None of the funds provided
2 shall be subject to cost sharing or matching
3 requirements. Given Tribes are in various stages
4 of planning and implementation, criteria to make
5 awards will vary based on the categories of
6 capability to implement and parameters will be
7 determined based on need and project readiness.

8 Next slide please. Criteria for this
9 opportunity may vary based on the categories of
10 capability to implement, with each category
11 receiving no less than 15 percent of the total
12 funding available. Initial pilot sites for Tribes
13 who are ready to implement could include the
14 criteria of low levels of households with
15 electrification, community readiness with existing
16 plans or designs, and potential to yield lessons
17 learned from other Tribes based on similar issues.
18 Tribes with potential to implement community scale
19 projects could include those with low levels of
20 households with electricity, low levels of
21 households with zero emissions electricity, and
22 the community as a high level of risk from climate

1 change or actively planning community driven
2 relocation.

3 The third criteria is Tribes with less
4 capacity and higher poverty to implement projects
5 at community or individual home level. These
6 include those communities with low levels of
7 households with electricity, low levels of
8 households with zero emissions electricity, your
9 community has a high level of risk from climate
10 change or actively planning community driven
11 relocation. And we will focus on those
12 communities who have higher levels of poverty.

13 I think also the other piece to remember
14 too is that we are looking at the content within
15 the grant, and so it's not necessarily about how
16 well the grant is written, but that we are getting
17 your request and that we are looking at it
18 thoroughly.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Onna. So for
21 those of us joining in today, this was an overview
22 of the Department's proposed IRA spend plan for

1 Indian Affairs money. Although it sounded like
2 just the way it was written in the PowerPoint may
3 have sounded like it was decided or definitive,
4 this is our proposal and we are consulting with
5 you on it and will make adjustments based on the
6 feedback we get during these consultations.

7 So before we open up the floor, just a
8 couple of framing questions to help guide the
9 conversation today. The first one would be based
10 on the amount of funds available, do these
11 proposed categories, which bucket funding into
12 capacity levels to implement projects, does this
13 seem like an equitable approach or should we
14 consider other factors?

15 And another question that we have for
16 you to help frame the conversation is does the
17 initial proposed criteria for awarding funds seem
18 like an appropriate approach, or should we
19 consider other factors?

20 So, with that, I want to open the
21 discussion up to try Tribal Leaders first. We
22 want to prioritize elected Tribal Leaders and

1 their designees. And then I would also ask that
2 everybody be mindful of the time we have available
3 and respectful of others who wish to speak by
4 keeping your oral comments concise and brief and
5 not asking to speak a second time until we've had
6 an opportunity to hear from everyone first.

7 You can raise your hand with the
8 reactions button at the bottom of your screen.
9 There's a raise hand feature there. And then if
10 you are joining us by phone, I believe you raise
11 your hand by pressing *9. You will have to press
12 *6 to unmute.

13 And just one last note before I turn it
14 over to Genevieve, who has her hand raised first,
15 I may have to depart this consultation a bit early
16 for another consultation that we have this
17 afternoon, depending on how far we go.

18 So, with that, I will recognize
19 Genevieve Rock as our first speaker.

20 MS. ROCK: Good morning. Thank you.
21 Can everyone hear me?

22 MR. NEWLAND: You betcha. Good morning.

1 MS. ROCK: Okay. Well, I want you all
2 to know that I'm speaking on behalf of the Native
3 Village of Shaktoolik Tribe. And no offense to
4 anyone, but I do have quite a bit to say this
5 morning. I will try to be quick.

6 First of all, BOI communities evaluated
7 by TCR using interagency evacuation that ensured a
8 thorough review of community risk preparedness
9 response plans, capacity needs, and intent. Is
10 that true? Why did BIA select Tribes across
11 Alaska and the lower 48 with different threats?
12 How did BIA make this decision? And why was
13 Shaktoolik denied? Why did we not receive any
14 funding? The November 2019 statewide threat
15 assessment listed Shaktoolik as number 1 in the
16 most at risk community of the 187 communities
17 assessed. Shaktoolik was listed in the erosion
18 group as number 1, flood group as number 1,
19 permafrost group as number 1, and the combined
20 threat risk assessment rated Shaktoolik as number
21 1, and yet we were still denied.

22 We firmly believe that BIA should base

1 their funding allocations on immediate need and we
2 feel that we were overlooked. We believe that a
3 single funding source based on risk with an agency
4 with Alaska staff and leaders and support us with
5 funding without grant applications is needed.
6 Alaska based. BIA has not shared information
7 about how it selected communities for the TCR
8 demonstration project and Dear Tribal letter
9 states the funds will enable the annual Tribal
10 Climate Resilience Awards Program to take the next
11 step to augment the award ceiling on
12 implementation categories budget for annual awards
13 to broaden Tribal reach.

14 BIA has also not responded to a letter
15 that I wrote on November 10 regarding the funding
16 decisions, so I sent a second notice on December
17 2, and to date have not received a response. A
18 letter was drafted up and submitted to our Alaska
19 Congressional delegation voicing our concerns on
20 the funding decisions made by BIA. We would like
21 to request detailed scoring information and an
22 explanation for why the project was not funded.

1 Investments do not appear to be based on risk. If
2 so, Shaktoolik would have been selected.

3 It is critical that BIA have a
4 transparent method to invest in Tribes across the
5 country based on need. We request a streamlined
6 process for funding. We also request that you
7 remove barriers for communities who are facing
8 infrastructure damage so that we can receive
9 funding. Shaktoolik spent the last nine years
10 being proactive in our efforts to stay and defend.
11 We spent the last four years building a berm in
12 front of our community. Merbok destroyed our
13 berm. If the berm was not there, our community
14 would have been washed away.

15 Significant erosion was observed along
16 the coast and the first ben road (phonetic) was
17 completely eroded away. Approximately 30 or more
18 feet of erosion occurred at this site, although
19 that damage was limited to the ocean side of the
20 community. At second ben (phonetic) the road was
21 completely eroded and approximately 30 feet
22 separates the ocean side from the river side.

1 Thirty feet is not safe for vehicles trying to get
2 to safety. Shaktoolik lost a lot of land and we
3 are in desperate need of a safety access road.
4 Our project would have directly benefitted all
5 community residents' life, health, safety, and the
6 continued existence of our community. The Master
7 Relocation Planning Grant was submitted to develop
8 a relocation master plan to identify possible
9 relocation sites and begin the site planning. The
10 key point is that we are highly threatened and
11 need funding to advance our relocation.

12 And this is something that we feel very
13 strongly about. Merbok took out our berm, the
14 berm in front of our village. And we did apply
15 for funding through BIA, but we were denied.

16 Thank you for listening, thank you for
17 giving me the opportunity.

18 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Ms. Rock, for
19 your comments today.

20 I am going to -- I'm not aware of a
21 letter from you, but I want to make sure you're
22 getting a response, so I will put my email address

1 in the chat for you to send directly -- you can
2 send those letters directly to me and I'll make
3 sure it gets to somebody to get you a response.

4 With respect to the climate awards that
5 were announced at the Tribal Nation Summit, I have
6 an appreciation that a lot of communities like
7 yours are facing immediate threats and we do wish
8 there was enough money to meet the need for every
9 community. The need is in the billions and we've
10 got several hundred million. I can -- I'd be
11 happy to follow up in a more detailed
12 conversation, but I can say that the evaluation
13 for those awards included an assessment of
14 readiness, existing plans, available lands for
15 relocation, and then an ability for us to generate
16 a blueprint or lessons learned for multiple
17 agencies coordinating on this effort.

18 And our goal going forward, as you've
19 seen with the overview that we provided today and
20 we would like your feedback on, is to make sure
21 that we're getting funds out to as many
22 communities as we can with higher award ceilings

1 and allowing us to concentrate these funds where
2 they're needed and where it can move the needle.

3 So, Ms. Rock, I appreciate you taking
4 the time with us this morning to share your views.
5 I want to make sure we're responsive. Oliver from
6 our team has put my email address in the chat and
7 I want to continue to work and partner to make
8 sure that these funds are getting out to
9 communities quickly and in amounts that will make
10 a difference.

11 MS. ROCK: Excuse me, Bryan?

12 MR. NEWLAND: Yes?

13 MS. ROCK: I have a Tribal Council
14 Member here that would actually like to add a
15 comment.

16 MR. NEWLAND: Sure.

17 SPEAKER: Thank you, Bryan. This is
18 (inaudible) with the Native Village of Shaktoolik.

19 I added a comment to Genevieve's points
20 that these storms are becoming more frequent and
21 stronger. Climate change is not a political
22 fight, it is a fight for our culture, heritage,

1 and lifestyle, but above all, humanity. Our lives
2 matter too.

3 With that, I want to also add how strong
4 are those climate change legislation of the Biden
5 Administration and will they be implemented when
6 the village actually does relocate, as we're -- it
7 seems to me we're pretty ill prepared to implement
8 such things as clean energy. We rely on diesel
9 for electricity and much of our infrastructure.
10 And of course I would like to know, is that an
11 Executive Order or a congressional policy that all
12 of these climate change fundings and activities
13 are based upon.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Councilman.
16 The funds that we're discussing today were
17 appropriated to us through the Inflation Reduction
18 Act on top of funds that we're administering under
19 the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. So these are
20 funds that we have that Congress provided through
21 their appropriations process under these bills.
22 And, again, we're looking to hear from you on how

1 to set up the spend plans going forward so that,
2 you know, these funds are put to the best use to
3 make the greatest difference in Tribal
4 communities.

5 So I want to make sure -- Ms. Rock,
6 thank you again. I will be looking for your
7 email. I want to make sure that we can get to
8 everybody who wants to speak today. We don't have
9 anyone else in the queue at this moment. But if
10 you do wish to speak, you can use the raise my
11 hand function. It's under the reactions button at
12 the bottom of your screen.

13 Well, to make sure we hear from folks.
14 If you're joining by phone, you can press *9.
15 Yes, Mr. Tupponce.

16 MR. TUPPONCE: How are you doing, Bryan?
17 I hate dead air, so I usually always have
18 something to say.

19 MR. NEWLAND: All right.

20 MR. TUPPONCE: You know, one of the
21 things -- I'm from -- I'm the Tribal Administrator
22 from the Upper Mattaponi Tribe in Virginia and

1 we're fairly newly recognized -- 2018.

2 We are looking at some of the funding in
3 here. You know, we have climate issues. We're in
4 between two rivers that flow into the York River
5 and into the Chesapeake Bay. Our rivers are all
6 highly impaired. We have fishery issues, Menhaden
7 being over fished and other things with that. We
8 do have a hatchery program that we're working with
9 Fish and Wildlife on. We're looking at building a
10 hatchery, is that's something of interest to us as
11 well.

12 And I guess just a word out as we go
13 through -- and I know, you know, there's a lot of
14 competitive funding out there which is difficult
15 for small Tribes like us and newly Tribes, but to
16 make sure that there's equity, you know, as it
17 goes across. Being Eastern Tribes, I think quite
18 often we get overlooked some and we have -- our
19 issues are different than others. We had contact,
20 you know, most cases 200 years earlier. We had a
21 lot of land loss very quickly. So doing things in
22 our area quite often are expensive and we have to

1 -- it's difficult working with the localities and
2 sometimes the states as well.

3 So just wanted to put a couple of things
4 out there with it. As I said, I hate dead air, so
5 I always try to get in a comment and get on the
6 record.

7 But I appreciate your time. And I think
8 I've seen you more in the last, you know, three
9 months than, you know, I've seen anybody in your
10 role. So it's good seeing you and I'm glad that
11 you're out and about and as active, you know, with
12 our Tribes. I appreciate it.

13 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Mr. Tupponce.
14 It's great to see you and hear from you.

15 I just want to add that the folks on our
16 team here at the Department understand that a lot
17 of times the Tribes that have the greatest needs
18 for grant funding often have the least capacity
19 for full-time grant writers and coming up with
20 really complex grant proposals. And so we want to
21 make sure that, you know, we're balancing the
22 needs and wanting to make sure, particularly with

1 the climate funding, that we're getting it to
2 where it needs to go so it can make a meaningful
3 impact. And so that's -- we really want to hear
4 from folks today on the best way that we can
5 balance our plan.

6 MR. TUPPONCE: Yeah. And definitely, if
7 you look at the climate maps, although some
8 people, you know, deny that the water rise is an
9 issue, I know that the Navy has a big plan because
10 where the carriers are down in Norfolk they
11 already have flooding at the docks and stuff
12 there. So we're -- you know, eventually probably
13 not in my lifetime, but we'll be migrating to the
14 west and living with other people because we'll be
15 under water once again here. But we're trying to
16 do what we can, living shorelines and oyster reefs
17 and, you know, things like that, trying to stop
18 the inundation and the salt water coming up into
19 our fresh water rivers.

20 But thank you again.

21 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you. Our next
22 speaker is Lisa Wilson.

1 MS. WILSON: Good morning. Yes, Lisa
2 Wilson, (speaks in Native language). My
3 traditional name is (speaks in Native language)
4 from the Lummi Nation.

5 I know that we have spoken many times,
6 but I just want to, you know, get on the record of
7 the issues that we're facing here at Lummi. And
8 hatcheries is definitely one of those major things
9 that we have left to rely on. We definitely would
10 have liked our historical runs that we've had, but
11 that's just not the reality for us anymore. And
12 so for quite a few years -- well, we've had our
13 hatcheries for the last 50 years and they are
14 definitely -- you know, they need some work with
15 that upkeep. But, you know, we have brought our
16 salmon back from just a few to a few thousand.

17 The problem that we're facing right now
18 is the habitat is not sustaining them. You know,
19 we've proven that we can bring our fish back and
20 we've -- actually this year we had a record number
21 of natural spawners. So we've got that part of
22 it, but the problem we're having right now is the

1 funding and the resources needed for that habitat
2 to sustain them. And the process that we're in
3 right now in the state process is we're having --
4 we're in the process where we have to compete
5 against stakeholders and we're outnumbered. And
6 that's a process where our treaty right are
7 watered down.

8 So those are the issues the we face, is
9 the burden of the grants, the capacity that it
10 takes, just like you had stated. So any way that
11 we can get the direct funding to try and --
12 noncompetitive would ease a lot of that burden.
13 So, like I said, in our state with the Judge Boldt
14 decision, we -- you know, we get 50 percent of the
15 harvest but we're doing all of the work here to
16 build the stocks up and to make sure that they
17 survive. And we're the ones taking the most cuts
18 to our fisheries. And so I would say if the 50
19 percent of the harvest, when it's off the backs of
20 the Tribes, we should be getting 50 percent of
21 those resources, should be directed to Tribes. If
22 we are the supreme law of the land and we are co-

1 managers, then why are we having to, you know,
2 fight for those scraps at the bottom?

3 And so if we did have those resources,
4 we could have those -- the staff -- the
5 appropriate staff to get the job done, because we
6 know what to do. We've been doing this time in
7 memorial. We know how to bring them back, but
8 climate change is definitely a factor. I don't
9 want to get habitat off the hook, because we've
10 been dealing with the habitat for years. But
11 climate change right now is definitely compounding
12 the problem.

13 And so those are the things that would
14 ease for us, is not to have to compete for those
15 dollars or direct funding when we can, whether
16 it's through the self governance compact.

17 So just wanted to thank you for your
18 time and always listening and try to help come up
19 with solutions.

20 (Speaks in Native language)

21 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

22 And just a question that we have, and it's

1 relevant to what you just stated on the habitat
2 protection and restoration. We know that that's
3 often largely impacted by changing climate, as
4 well as other environmental threats. You can see
5 in the PowerPoint we walked through earlier and
6 the materials that we sent up that we're trying to
7 figure out the best way to fit that within our
8 climate resilience and adaptation work. Also
9 being mindful that we have many coastal
10 communities that are facing immediate threats, as
11 we've just heard. And so we would welcome your
12 input and others' input on the beset way to
13 structure that. If it's making climate adaptation
14 and relocation funding available for a larger, a
15 broader range of activities with higher ceilings,
16 or if folks want to see us, you know, parcel those
17 funds out by subject matter, and things like
18 habitat restoration and protection. And that's
19 something that we're really considering here.

20 MS. WILSON: Yeah. Well, thank you for
21 that question.

22 I think, yeah, I think definitely a

1 variety. So, you know, with the process that
2 we're in, we're in a ranking -- it's created a
3 bureaucracy of ranking and -- but that's the thing
4 is we're outnumbered in that ranking. And so I
5 think -- and so, you know, with us, you know,
6 we're producing the fish and they're dying,
7 literally. So we've created a resolution through
8 ATNI and NCAI on like a salmon crisis team
9 because, you know, we've got our salmon dying
10 right in front of us. And if that's not a crisis,
11 I don't know what is.

12 And so I think there might be, you know,
13 some levels of sense of an emergency. I think
14 that would be a good thing to take into factor,
15 that, you know, we would definitely have those
16 numbers up if it wasn't for our hatcheries.

17 So thank you.

18 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you very much. Our
19 next speaker is David Conner, and then after David
20 we'll hear from Will Micklin.

21 MR. CONNER: Good afternoon, Assistant
22 Secretary Newland, and everybody. Chairman Seki

1 is meeting at this time with the Mass Tribes and
2 our Minnesota governor, but we did want to make a
3 comment.

4 You know, we feel good about the
5 categorization of the climate resilience funding
6 and we're especially appreciative of habitat
7 restoration and adaption funds. Red Lake is
8 located within three different biomes. We have
9 the Northern Boreal Forest, we have mixed
10 deciduous hardwoods, we have grasslands, and of
11 course we have the sixth largest fresh water lake
12 in the United States. And there's never enough
13 habitat restoration funds, so we just want to say
14 thank you for that.

15 Of course grants are complicated,
16 there's so many of them today, but we understand,
17 you know, you're trying to fit things within the
18 framework that you currently have. So basically
19 that's just what we wanted to comment on, is we're
20 very pleased to see habitat restoration in various
21 ecosystems.

22 So, with that, I'll say thank you and a

1 good day to everyone.

2 MR. NEWLAND: (Speaks in Native
3 language.) Thank you so much for that, David. I
4 appreciate your time with us today.

5 Next I'll turn it to you, Will.

6 MR. MICKLIN: Thank you. Will Micklin,
7 the Vice President of the Executive Council,
8 Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian
9 Tribes of Alaska, Richard J. Peterson, President
10 and CEO, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians,
11 Robert Pinto, Sr., Chairman.

12 Just a couple of quick comments on the
13 electrification opportunity. Just a question on
14 the requirement that Tribal communities and
15 households are anchor institutions, need be not
16 connected to the electric grid. We have
17 communities in Southeast Alaska that are served by
18 the Inside Passage Electric Corporation. It's a
19 consortium -- a cooperative -- excuse me, energy
20 cooperative. But it's not a Tribal entity, not
21 eligible for funding. So we've been reaching out
22 and affiliating ourselves with IPEC, meaning

1 (inaudible), to enable them to be eligible for
2 Federal funding for serving our Tribal citizens.
3 In large part they are connected to the IPEC grid,
4 although in many places under served and
5 unaffordable with very high electric rates. And
6 Ewiiapaayp in southern -- in East San Diego is
7 not dissimilar to many smaller rural remote Tribes
8 in California that are either off grid entirely,
9 as Ewiiapaayp is, or is served partially by the
10 electric grid. And I'll say our experience in
11 dealing with the off grid situation is that being
12 off grid and relying entirely on renewable for
13 powering our communities is very costly. We in
14 particular are extremely remote at 5,000 to 6,000
15 feet and a 12 mile access road. Large vehicles
16 can't make the trip. It's prohibitively expensive
17 just to rely on renewables. And for renewables
18 that we do have, and we do -- we have solar rays
19 and propane generator back up, and trying to
20 expand that for the communities, it only serves
21 one -- a small percentage of the households, is
22 that we find that increasing its capacity to serve

1 more is even more costly.

2 The real solution we think, and we have
3 proposals in, although it's very difficult for a
4 small Tribe to get funded for an electrification
5 grant because it is so costly. The cost per mile
6 for transmission is just out of sight. But our
7 business model shows that if connected to the grid
8 we are sustainable because then we have the
9 opportunity with renewable in our community to
10 feed back into the grid and reduce our energy cost
11 almost to nothing and in part have potential for
12 some revenues.

13 That is really sustainable. In
14 California they have tariffs, energy tariffs that
15 promote that. And that is a real solution. With
16 IPEC that would be the optimal solution, increase
17 their renewables, but do it through improving
18 their grid, and rely on the renewables as
19 distributed generators to reduce cost.

20 So my question is, is it necessarily a
21 requirement that for eligibility for the program
22 that those served need be entirely not connected

1 to the grid. That's my specific question.

2 My one general comment is that we are
3 finding, and particularly for small, rural, remote
4 Tribes, that with the reduction in base programs
5 over the years and the exclusion of indirect rates
6 to many grant opportunities available, and the
7 need to sometimes exclude from our indirect --
8 application of indirect some programs because the
9 awards are large and for infrastructure projects.
10 We find that our contract support base is much
11 reduced and our ability for G&A just to run our
12 Tribal administrations is really challenged and
13 reconciling some of the -- like the CARES Act and
14 ARPA revenues and now the BIL and IRA is making it
15 even more difficult. And my petition is just we
16 really need to support the base funding for Tribal
17 governments in order for them to manage all of
18 these many opportunities that are coming, but our
19 ability to do that is increasingly narrow.

20 What was the small and needy Tribes at
21 200, the Administration is proposing to bring it
22 to 300 -- even with that we are under water. So

1 I'm just petitioning in all forums available,
2 whether it's (inaudible) or self-governance or
3 these consultations, that the needs of small and
4 needy Tribes just to run their core governance,
5 their core employees and Tribal officials needs
6 attention because we are being strangled with much
7 more activity, but much less in our cost base, in
8 our base pool that would support the overhead of
9 Tribal administration.

10 So thank you very much.

11 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Will, for that
12 on the small Tribes supplement, formerly called --
13 or known as small and needy. I hear you and we
14 hear you. And that's an area where we're doing
15 our best to give attention, both in administration
16 and in the budget process.

17 With respect to some of the questions
18 you had about the proposal, there are no
19 requirements right at the moment because this is
20 just our proposal for consultation. As it stands,
21 the way that we've set up the electrification
22 proposal would not have a requirement related to

1 the grid. We are again trying to focus the new
2 funds on zero emissions electrical systems.

3 I want to call back up Onna LeBeau to
4 just give a little more detail on the Department's
5 proposal to maybe facilitate this conversation.

6 Go ahead.

7 MS. LeBEAU: Okay. Thank you. And
8 thank you so much for your questions.

9 Now, I think the thing, you know, as
10 Bryan stated, is we're taking in the information
11 to determine how best we can create this and get
12 the funds out to the Tribes. And, you know, we do
13 focus heavily on those communities that, you know,
14 are off the grid or don't have electricity to your
15 communities. And so, you know, how we are setting
16 up this grant is, you know, going to hopefully
17 support you all in some of these issues that, you
18 know, are coming to light with respect to lack of
19 capacity.

20 You know, that's why, you know, I stated
21 at the end of my statement is that it's not about
22 how well it's written, but more the project and

1 how it can be completed.

2 And we're also looking at the two rounds
3 of funding, two year each. The first year, you
4 know, could potentially be, you know, feasibility
5 funding to allow you to be able to gauge how much
6 work it will be to get this project off the
7 ground. And then the following three years are
8 for implementation. And, you know, there's going
9 to be some room in there as far as being able to
10 implement it in a time frame that is suitable to
11 your community and your ability with respect to
12 the capacity. And I come from a background of a
13 nonprofit and I understand what it is to report, I
14 understand what it is to write a grant. And so,
15 you know, we're being very mindful when it comes
16 down to determining how we're going to set this up
17 to try and support the communities that are really
18 needing the funding for electrification.

19 You know, so I appreciate the input that
20 you're giving and, you know, like I said, we're
21 going to try our best to see what we can do to
22 support these communities, to meet these needs.

1 Because we do understand, you know, even with
2 respect to those communities that are relocating
3 and the amount of funding that it's going to take
4 to get, you know, everything back up and moving.

5 And we've also offered opportunities
6 within economic development with respect to
7 supporting with grant writing as far as training
8 and how we can do that. And, you know, within our
9 economic development team, you know, we're working
10 to support Tribes with technical assistance on
11 these types of things. And so I encourage
12 additional questions, input, because we will be
13 taking it all into consideration when it comes
14 down to creating this.

15 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Onna. And,
16 again, this is a good time to note that we welcome
17 your written comments as well in this consultation
18 process. Oliver can share that information again
19 here in the chat. But if there's anything that
20 you hear that -- or anything that you wish to add
21 in writing, we are open for that. You can get
22 those comments to us by January 17 of 2023. It's

1 wild that we're talking about 2023 already.

2 So, with that, I'll go to our next
3 speakers in the queue. First we have Vivian
4 Korthius and then Dionne Crawford.

5 Good morning.

6 MS. KORTHUIS: Good morning, Bryan, it's
7 Vivian calling from Bethel. I'm just doing an
8 audio check. Can you hear me?

9 MR. NEWLAND: Yes.

10 MS. KORTHUIS: If my connection
11 disappears, I'll call right back in.

12 MR. NEWLAND: Okay.

13 MS. KORTHUIS: Good morning. My name is
14 Vivian Korthuis. I serve as the Chief Executive
15 Officer for the Association of Village Council
16 Presidents. I am calling in from Bethel, Alaska.
17 I am Yup'ik and a member of the Emmonak Tribe.

18 My comments today are based upon ABCP
19 Resolution 200816 and the Alaska Federation of
20 Natives Resolution 2020. Alaska is warming at 2.5
21 times faster than the global average.
22 Consequently our health, livelihoods, lands,

1 waters, fish, wildlife, and unique indigenous
2 cultures and communities are being adversely
3 impacted. Our communities are facing extremely
4 aggressive erosion, flooding, and permafrost thaw
5 that threatens community infrastructure and the
6 sustainability of our communities in rural Alaska.
7 Families are being displaced, especially evident
8 in the most recent example of Typhoon Merbok. Our
9 communities have no choice but to move to safe,
10 new, and healthier sites.

11 Approximately \$4.5 billion is needed to
12 prevent impacts to existing community
13 infrastructure in 144 Alaskan Native communities
14 over the next 50 years. Over the next 10 years,
15 approximately \$100 million per year is needed to
16 protect existing community infrastructure.
17 Millions of dollars are needed for environmentally
18 threatened communities to complete site specific
19 risk assessments, which may cost up to \$450,000
20 per community. Only a limited number of Tribes
21 have completed this process. In our region alone,
22 we have 56 Tribes and our goal is to have every

1 community have a risk assessment done. Just for
2 our region, an estimated \$25.2 million is needed
3 just to complete the risk assessment for our
4 Tribes alone. We are requesting at least \$5
5 million annually for site specific risk
6 assessments, planning, and designing for
7 protection in place, managed retreat, and
8 relocation projects in our region.

9 ABCP also requests that Congress provide
10 a single committed source of funding to address
11 Tribes' unmet need implementation process in
12 Alaska. We are requesting that the Denali
13 Commission be allocated \$50 million annually,
14 designed fro the Commission's village
15 infrastructure protection program for protection
16 in place, managed retreat, and relocation
17 solutions.

18 Typhoon Merbok was the most recent
19 warning shot for our Tribes along the Bering Sea
20 coast. Our Tribes exist now in layers of
21 challenges in our region. Our Tribes are very
22 resilient and have experienced recently the peril

1 of the pandemic, the continued challenges of the
2 public safety crisis, the devastation of the
3 typhoon, and the humanitarian crisis of the salmon
4 crash on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers regarding
5 food security. These are not happening
6 separately, but all at once.

7 Some lessons learned from the Typhoon
8 only emphasize the need to address all of these
9 challenges. The challenges include immediate life
10 safety in coastal villages, community assessments,
11 emergency community assessments, emergency
12 preparedness, emergency clean water, emergency
13 communications, emergency equipment, a safe place
14 to work under emergency conditions, emergency
15 training for volunteer search and rescue teams,
16 accessible village airports, damaged grave sites,
17 damaged homes, and village infrastructure,
18 including electricity, fuel, and so forth. One of
19 the greatest needs was addressing basic search and
20 rescue and basic police protections in the
21 remotest locations in rural Alaska.

22 Lastly, I'm requesting that every Tribe

1 within the Arctic can be considered under drastic
2 climate changes as we are witnessing on a daily
3 basis, these threats, and we are asking that
4 Arctic Tribes, people that live in the Arctic,
5 Tribes that live in the Arctic, be allocated that
6 same amount of funding to draft and implement a
7 climate adaptation and hazard mitigation plan.

8 Thank you for listening.

9 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Vivian, for
10 your comments today. I appreciate you taking time
11 again to join us this morning and that very clear
12 and thoughtful request for how to use these funds.

13 I'll turn next to Councilwoman Crawford.

14 MS. CRAWFORD: Thank you, Assistant
15 Secretary Newland.

16 And I just wanted to say very briefly
17 that I think the issues here for us on the Great
18 Plains are very different obviously than some of
19 the Alaska villages and other places. But herein
20 the Great Plains, one of the things that we deal
21 with by and large is that we have to try to
22 negotiate with power companies that are existing.

1 And, of course, they are for profit. They make
2 that transition for us to adopt wind energy, clean
3 energy solutions almost impossible because we are
4 dependent on them and the grid. For us to create
5 our own system would be highly, highly expensive.

6 The other issue that we have is in our
7 rural communities, which are very rural, we don't
8 have -- we have people that live very far apart.
9 And I think that -- though that for them it's
10 their way of life, it also creates a system where
11 you would be spending lots of funding to provide
12 energy to, you know, very few homes.

13 Our people, of course, are resilient.
14 Dakota-Lakota Nakota people and the rest of the
15 Tribes in the Great Plains, we're resilient. You
16 know, we've sustained ourselves through 50 degree
17 below 0 weather and like if you could see out my
18 window right now, 40 mile an hour winds. But that
19 really then -- it's dangerous. We've lost power
20 here for two weeks at a time and, you know, are
21 seeking shelter en mass in our community centers,
22 which then now today puts us at greater risk for

1 Covid infections and outbreaks, flu, RSV. All of
2 those things then become an issue when you have
3 many people in a small area.

4 So I think that I know that it's
5 difficult because you're given such a small amount
6 of money and so many people to serve. And
7 sometimes it feels almost cruel for us to have to
8 compete against each other, but I do know that
9 those solutions are -- sometimes that's all you
10 can do. But the only thing that I would ask is
11 that it really be fair. I think that we have a
12 lot of communities that have a high concentration
13 of Tribal members. We have those large land based
14 Tribes, you know, like Cheyenne River and Oglala,
15 and some of those areas that you have people that
16 survive off of wood stoves, candles, and oil lamps
17 still. They don't have -- there's a large number
18 of people in many of our communities that don't
19 have water and sewer, they don't have indoor
20 plumbing. And they're resilient and they've
21 learned how to survive. That quality of life is
22 really low.

1 If you can keep advocating for more
2 dollars, keep advocating for our Tribes to have
3 those basic, basic needs met, it would be really
4 appreciated. But I would also say that if it's a
5 grant, that the scoring be based on population
6 that we serve, of course the need, and that it be
7 -- it really be -- you know, we've asked in the
8 Great Plains, of course, you know, for a fairness
9 because we have so many Tribes that have large
10 numbers, but a lot of times the formulas that are
11 used to calculate, to allocate funding is -- we
12 just feel it's not fair. So we would ask for a
13 review of the formulas and a review of the
14 selection. Maybe a more in depth view of those
15 things.

16 But thank you. Thank you for your time.

17 MR. NEWLAND: Councilwoman, if I can
18 pose a question. It's in response to what you
19 said, but it's a question for the whole group,
20 especially based on Vivian's comments.

21 Equity is defined differently by
22 different people I think sometimes based on their

1 need, and that's something we're trying to make
2 sure that we're doing because we know that the
3 power needs and the climate impacts are different
4 for Tribes in the Great Plains and they're
5 different for Tribes in the Great Lakes and the
6 Southwest and in the Arctic. And we want to make
7 sure that the funding is both impactful, but also
8 equitable. But looking for guidance from you and
9 others on the best way to set up distribution so
10 that it's equitable and impactful.

11 MS. CRAWFORD: So could I just respond
12 to that real quick?

13 MR. NEWLAND: Yes, please.

14 MS. CRAWFORD: I think that this is not
15 -- this is something that we stumbled upon when we
16 were looking at our jail -- is that Tribes with
17 anything that is new construction, if there's ways
18 to implement monies into making those projects
19 sustainable, that would be the first thing. And I
20 think that Tribes are -- you know, we're the
21 stewards of our communities and of our lands, and
22 so we're always willing to implement those things.

1 So that would be I would think a way that we could
2 move forward. I know we're going to be building a
3 jail here. If we could make that sustainable, we
4 know that the cost will increase initially, but
5 the impact over time would obviously be -- it
6 would be a cost savings. I know that Cheyenne
7 River has a school going up. You know, so some of
8 those projects, I think if you can take some of
9 this funding and implement it into new
10 construction to make them sustainable would be a
11 great impact.

12 The other thing that I would say is that
13 105(1) program that we stumbled across is
14 brilliant. Because you have such a small -- you
15 know, when you don't have funding for everything,
16 it's a way for us to work together and really be
17 government to government. I think it's so
18 brilliant. So if there's a way to implement some
19 of those things, which -- and I know our Tribe
20 probably is different. You know, we do have --
21 you know, we do have good credit, we've had really
22 good audits, and those things, so it's maybe

1 easier for us to do those collaborative
2 agreements, like a 105(1). But I think that that
3 works really well as well. And that could work --
4 that concept could work with this I think.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, councilwoman.
7 I don't see any speakers in our queue. I'm going
8 to have to depart here in just a moment to get
9 ready for another overlapping consultation that we
10 have on our NAGPRA regulations today.

11 So I'm going to listen in to our next
12 speaker and then turn it over to our Deputy
13 Assistant Secretary, Jason Freihage, to take us
14 home in this consultation.

15 Mr. Williams.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, thank you. I know
17 you've got tough balancing work to do, especially
18 when trying to figure out how to split money
19 between risk to human health versus risk to our
20 cultural health. Here in the Northwest, and
21 really for Tribes across the country, our culture
22 is built our fish and wildlife resources and it's

1 really important for us to maintain those
2 populations.

3 With climate change funding, you know,
4 work we do to restore our salmon, particularly
5 with restoring estuary wetlands and freshwater
6 wetlands and planting riparian areas, are all good
7 for carbon sequestration. And Lisa Wilson
8 mentioned earlier, you know, the salmon dying in
9 her watershed. Those salmon are dying because of
10 the high water temperatures that we're all seeing
11 in the Northwest. And, you know, if we can
12 replant riparian areas, which is really good for
13 carbon sequestration, that would be a great help
14 to helping our salmon survive in our watersheds.

15 She also talked about hatchery funding.
16 You know, most of our Tribal hatcheries here in
17 the Northwest are 40-50 years old and they're in
18 dire need for some upgrades. And so I thank you
19 for including that in your funding split.

20 But I really wanted to talk about our --
21 the energy project we're operating here at
22 Tulalip. We've been operating a dairy digester

1 for 14 years now. And working with the dairies,
2 we're capturing cow manure, but we're also
3 bringing in food waste to run an anaerobic
4 digester, which really just speeds up the natural
5 decomposition process for these waste products.
6 And we're using it to capture methane to generate
7 electricity. By capturing the methane that would
8 normally be released into the atmosphere, you
9 know, we're intercepting a major greenhouse gas
10 and breaking it down and still releasing carbon
11 dioxide, but we're greatly reducing the methane
12 component going into the atmosphere.

13 We're also currently working with a
14 private company in Bothell, Washington that's come
15 up with a new technology for stripping a dirty gas
16 -- like biogas from a digester down to pure
17 hydrogen. And in that process stripping out the
18 carbon into a granular form, so we're not emitting
19 any carbon into the atmosphere as a part of that
20 project. And the biogas from a digester is very
21 similar to the biogas coming out of landfills and
22 coming out of wastewater treatment plants. And if

1 this process works the way we think it will, it
2 could be a good way of being able to use renewable
3 natural gas to create pure hydrogen for a clean
4 hydrogen energy market.

5 The technology we're using has been
6 bench tested using propane gas, which is, you
7 know, much cleaner than biogas, but it seems to
8 work very well with propane. And, you know, the
9 company developing it was primarily looking at the
10 natural gas market because of the pipeline system
11 we have throughout the country where we could use
12 existing natural gas sources to generate pure
13 hydrogen and strip out all the carbon and then the
14 solid carbon can be used for other purposes, like
15 carbon fiber manufacturing or as a soil amendment.

16 So I think this is a good technology
17 that can really help this country convert to a
18 cleaner energy production system. And I just
19 wanted to let you know about the technology that
20 we're working on and think that it could be very
21 helpful with addressing -- or trying to mitigate
22 for climate change.

1 So thank you for your time.

2 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

3 And that sounds like an interesting and exciting
4 project.

5 So this consultation session is not
6 over, but my time with you unfortunately is at an
7 end today. I again, before I turn it over to
8 Jason, want to thank all of you for taking time
9 with us. And I do want to just add that everybody
10 on our team here at the Department understands
11 that -- things that we have to work on across
12 Indian Country. The need is almost always far
13 outpacing our ability to provide funding. And it
14 is a challenge for us, but I also -- I just want
15 to make sure that I acknowledge that we hear those
16 of you from across Indian Country facing different
17 threats and different needs, often with a sense of
18 urgency from your people. And we're going to do
19 our best to listen to you, to try to come up with
20 ideas in response to your comments, to make sure
21 that this funding that we're getting out is
22 impactful and equitable.

1 And so I appreciate you taking time with
2 us and educating us on that.

3 And I also want to wish you all a safe
4 and happy holiday season. I enjoy our partnership
5 together and I look forward to continuing that in
6 the New Year.

7 So, with that, I'll turn it over to our
8 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Jason Freihage. And
9 will talk the rest of you again soon.

10 MR. FREIHAGE: Great. Thanks, Bryan.
11 One thing I wanted to follow upon Mr. Williams'
12 comment to was -- and after Councilwoman Crawford
13 mentioned the 105(1) program -- you know, one of
14 the things that's helped us grow the 105(1)
15 program is setting up some what we call
16 peer-to-peer learning sessions with Tribes who
17 have done the leases and those who haven't. And
18 after hearing about some pretty interesting
19 complex projects at Tulalip, that might be
20 something we can look at doing here in the
21 electrification space too. Just kind of the
22 transfer of the ideas and the creativity that's

1 out there across Indian Country. So peer-to-peer
2 learning always seems to work well.

3 I saw there was a hand up, but I think
4 it's gone down. So is there anyone -- Nikki Letto
5 (phonetic), is -- would you still like to talk? I
6 don't see the hand right now.

7 A reminder, if anyone else, please put
8 your hand up or if you're a caller, obviously you
9 can also talk if you'd like. You just -- again,
10 the reminder is to hit *9 to raise your hand and
11 *6 to unmute yourself. So we'll just give it
12 another minute or two to see if there's anyone
13 else who would like to speak.

14 And while we're waiting, I'll just
15 reiterate that, again, you can submit written
16 comments to consultation@BIA.gov by midnight, or
17 11:59 a.m., on January 17. Please include
18 Inflation Reduction Act in the subject line.

19 All right. Maybe we'll do one last call
20 before we wrap it up. Just give folks one more
21 minute and then otherwise we'll bring this
22 consultation to an end.

1 Okay. Well, I think seeing no remaining
2 hands or folks jumping, thank you all for joining
3 us very much. Again, we look forward to future
4 written comments to be submitted by January 17 to
5 consultation@BIA.gov. Again, please include
6 Inflation Reduction Act in the subject line. We
7 look forward to your comments and integrating them
8 into these programs as we move forward toward
9 implementation.

10 Thank you very much and have a great
11 day.

12 (Whereupon, at 2:25 p.m., the
13 PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

2 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

3 I, Peter Pantazopoulos, notary public in
4 and for the District of Columbia, do hereby certify
5 that the forgoing PROCEEDING was duly recorded and
6 thereafter reduced to print under my direction;
7 that the witnesses were sworn to tell the truth
8 under penalty of perjury; that said transcript is a
9 true record of the testimony given by witnesses;
10 that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor
11 employed by any of the parties to the action in
12 which this proceeding was called; and, furthermore,
13 that I am not a relative or employee of any
14 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto,
15 nor financially or otherwise interested in the
16 outcome of this action.

17
18 (Signature and Seal on File)

19 Notary Public, in and for the District of Columbia
20
21
22

