



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR - 6 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

Indian Affairs is pleased to invite you to the Tribal Energy Summit, scheduled for April 29 – May 1, 2026, in Houston, Texas. We are excited to once again bring together Tribal Nations, energy industry leaders, and Federal partners for a strategic and collaborative discussion on the role of Tribal lands in advancing national energy goals.

Held in the energy capital of the world, the Summit will provide updates from the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) priorities that support the future of energy development in Indian Country. These priorities aim to streamline the review and approval of energy projects - including exploration, leasing, siting, development, production, transportation, refining, and generation—while upholding Tribal sovereignty and supporting community-driven growth.

The Summit will include a listening session regarding Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERA), providing a dedicated forum for Tribal leaders, Tribal staff, and BIA leadership to share perspectives on current energy priorities, challenges, and opportunities across Indian Country. Discussion topics for the listening session may include:

- (1) How do TERAs align with your Tribe's current energy development priorities, and what outcomes would your Tribe hope to achieve through a TERA?
- (2) What challenges or barriers—regulatory, administrative, technical, or resource-based—does your Tribe face in pursuing or preparing for a TERA?
- (3) What types of support from BIA (such as capacity building, guidance, staffing, or clearer processes) would most improve your Tribe's ability to evaluate, negotiate, or implement a TERA?
- (4) How can BIA and Tribes collaborate more effectively to build long-term pathways toward TERA readiness, including workforce development, environmental review capabilities, and internal governance structures?

Please register for the event at: <https://whova.com/portal/registration/1xZ-LKkMbwLOv5L-LRQ5/>. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email. Further information will be provided, including a Summit agenda, and host hotel information.

We look forward to your participation and connecting on this important conversation. This summit will implement a collaborative strength to working together to advance energy security and economic opportunity on Tribal lands. Any questions regarding this event should be directed to Indianenergyservicecenter@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

William Henry Kirkland III
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs