



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

June 30, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Secretary of the Interior asked me to send this letter on his behalf. The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) is committed to fostering a strong, regular, and meaningful government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations. The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) was established to facilitate meaningful dialogue between the Department and Tribes and to address evolving issues related to the Department's programs, responsibilities and proposed policies.

Following a comprehensive review of the STAC's structure and functions, the Department is implementing updates to strengthen the STAC's effectiveness and streamline its operations. With this Dear Tribal Leader Letter, the Department is reconstituting the STAC, seeking one representative from each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regions.

The Department is seeking applicants who bring strong leadership and expertise related to this Administration's priorities as they relate to Indian Country.

In addition to regional members, the Department is seeking nominations for individuals with proven knowledge or experience in the following areas to serve on the STAC:

- Advancing economic development in Tribal communities;
- Enhancing Tribal self-sufficiency through energy development;
- Strengthening public safety in Tribal communities;
- Improving educational outcomes for our students; and
- Streamlining and modernizing the probate process for trust assets.

Selected members will play a critical role in ensuring the STAC operates efficiently and effectively in support of these priorities. Nominees for regional positions must be elected Tribal officials. Nominees for expert positions will be either elected Tribal officials or designated Tribal employees authorized to act on behalf of an elected Tribal official and should demonstrate knowledge or experience relevant to Federal-Tribal relations and key policy areas impacting Indian Country as they relate to the current Administration's priorities. Additional information on the STAC structure and nomination process is enclosed.

If you have questions, please contact Jarrod Lowery, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, at STAC@ios.doi.gov, and include "STAC Application – [insert BIA region or area of subject-matter expertise]" in the subject line. Completed nomination packages may be submitted to OIEA@ios.doi.gov by **July 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Sincerely,

William Henry Kirkland III
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Enclosure

Purpose

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) provides an essential forum for strategic, government-to-government engagement between Tribal Nations and the Department of the Interior (Department). The STAC supports regular consultation, exchange of ideas, and delivery of strategic advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) as the Department advances the President's priorities and the goals of the current Administration. The STAC will focus on providing high-level strategic guidance to the Secretary, complementing ongoing engagement efforts and helping ensure policies and initiatives reflect Tribal perspectives and priorities.

Membership

The STAC will be composed of a Tribal member from each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regions: (1) Alaska Region; (2) Eastern Region; (3) Eastern Oklahoma Region; (4) Great Plains Region; (5) Midwest Region; (6) Navajo Region; (7) Northwest Region; (8) Pacific Region; (9) Rocky Mountain Region; (10) Southern Plains Region; (11) Southwest Region; and (12) Western Region. Additionally, the Secretary may, at his or her discretion, appoint elected Tribal leaders in their official capacity or designated employees authorized to act on their behalf to the STAC, provided these individuals possess demonstrated knowledge or experience in one of the following areas: Tribal Economic Development, Energy Development, Public Safety, Education and Indian Probate for trust assets. The Secretary, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (Assistant Secretary), will designate one member of the STAC to serve as chair and one member to serve as vice chair.

Term Limits and Procedures

Members will continue to serve at the discretion of the Secretary for terms of up to three years. Meetings will occur up to twice annually, with additional meetings held as needed to address priority issues for the Administration and Tribal Nations.

Compensation

Non-Federal members of the STAC serve without compensation but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence while away from their homes or regular places of business.

Time Requirements

Members must make a good faith effort to attend meetings. After two consecutive absences, the Department may request new nominations from the region for a replacement. Department representatives determined by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary will be expected to attend meetings.

Nomination Packet Requirements

Interested applicants must be an elected Tribal official from one of the 12 BIA regions or should be either a Tribal official or a designated employee authorized to act on their behalf, provided these individuals possess demonstrated knowledge or experience in Tribal Economic Development, Energy Development, Public Safety, or Indian Probate for trust assets.

A complete nomination package should include the following information about each nominee:

- The BIA region or area of expertise for which the nominee is being considered.
- The nominee's full legal name, title, contact information (to include phone number and email address), geographic location, and Tribal affiliation.
- A résumé that describes the nominee's qualifications and technical experience.
- A personal statement of the reasons why the nominee wants to serve on STAC, including (1) examples of work and (2) technical and/or professional experience at the local, Tribal, or urban community level, and/or regional or national levels.
- A statement committing to the time to contribute to the STAC meetings.
- Any additional comments, including culturally relevant skills and personal experience, that could help contribute to STAC's deliberations.
- An official letter from the Tribe.

The Secretary will only consider complete nomination packages.

Upon review of the nominations received, the Secretary retains sole discretion to appoint the individuals selected to serve on the STAC.

Submission Information

The nomination package for STAC membership must be submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (OIEA) in an official letter from the Tribe by **July 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET** to the following e-mail: oiea@ios.doi.gov.

If you have questions, contact Jarrod Lowrey, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, at STAC@ios.doi.gov and please include “STAC Application – [Insert BIA Region or area of subject-matter expertise]” in the subject line.