



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 2, 2021

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

The Department of Commerce has a long-standing policy relating to government-to-government relations with tribal governments. On January 26, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationships that requires the Department to submit a plan for implementing Executive Order (E.O.) 13175, which charges all executive departments and agencies to engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications.

The Department's "Tribal Consultation and Coordination Policy of the U.S. Department of Commerce" (Policy) is available online at <https://www.commerce.gov/bureaus-and-offices/os/olia/native-american-affairs>. The Policy serves as an over-arching policy for all bureaus and agencies under the Department. I am writing to request your recommendations and feedback on our current Policy and included questions on how we can improve our policies and practices to better engage with Indian Country through meaningful consultation.

The Department will hold two national tribal consultation webinars on April 14 and April 15, 2021, to listen to tribes on their recommendations and comments on our current Policy and request your participation. This webinar will also provide updates on our current tribal consultation officials for each bureau and agency. Please feel free to extend this invitation to other key tribal officials.

As the President's memorandum states: "History demonstrates that we best serve American Indian and Alaska Natives when Tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities, and when federal officials speak with and listen to Tribal leaders in formulating federal policy that affects Tribal Nations." I believe this is one of many steps we will take to strengthen our relationship with you. Consultation times, dates, and links are below:

Consultation #1

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST

Registration Link:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PWXW2096610&p=9603655&t=c>

Conference Number: PWXW2096610

Audience Passcode: 9603655

Audio Dial-In (Same for both days): 1-888-324-9559, Participant Passcode: 9603655

Consultation #2

Date/Time: Thursday, April 15, 2021, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST

Registration Link:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PWXW2096613&p=9603655&t=c>

Conference Number: PWXW2096613

Audience Passcode: 9603655

Audio Dial-In (Same for both days): 1-888-324-9559, Participant Passcode: 9603655

Specific questions on which we welcome your feedback are listed below:

1. How do we strengthen our Tribal Consultation and coordination process across the Department to ensure all operating and staff divisions are responsive and engaging with Indian Country in a meaningful way?
2. How do we improve our communication and outreach regarding policy or program changes at the Department that impact Indian Tribes?
3. Are there specific areas where Tribal officials would like more information or feel they are not getting adequate outreach to engage in a meaningful way?
4. How do we improve our Tribal Consultations?
5. What comments or concerns do you have that will help us improve the Department's Tribal Consultation and Coordination Policy?

Please send us your comments and recommendations no later than **April 16, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. EST** to consultation@doc.gov or call (202) 286-1675 with any comments or concerns. This initial feedback will help guide us in next steps for further consultation later this year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We take our commitment to honoring the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Indian Tribes seriously and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo