

THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

JUL - 6 2006

Dear Tribal Leader,

With the tribal leader letter dated December 27, 2005, you received a compact disc containing preliminary drafts of regulations necessary to implement the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) and the Fiduciary Trust Model. We held the first of a series of tribal consultation meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 14 -15, 2006 and in Portland, Oregon on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. These meetings focused on the AIPRA-related regulations.

The initial comment period, December 27, 2005 – March 31, 2006, was an opportunity for tribes and other interested parties to submit comments and recommendations before the regulations are proposed in the Federal Register. We received many comments on the draft regulations, both in writing and during the consultation meetings. Interior's work groups carefully considered the comments and incorporated recommendations and comments where possible. To ensure that you have the proposed regulations for review, please find enclosed a CD containing the preamble and the regulatory language that will be proposed in the Federal Register in the coming weeks.

The regulations being proposed amend regulations addressing probate (25 CFR 15), rules applicable to probate hearings and appeals (43 CFR 4), Indian land records and title documents (25 CFR 150), conveyance of Indian trust or restricted land and removal of trust or restricted status (25 CFR 152), and life estates and future interests (25 CFR 179), and create a new Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part addressing tribal probate codes (25 CFR 18).

During the 60-day public comment period that begins with the publishing of the proposed regulations in the Federal Register, we have scheduled additional tribal consultation meetings. The first will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota on July 27, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the following location:

Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center
2111 North LaCrosse Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 343-8550

We have scheduled a second tribal consultation meeting in Billings, Montana on August 8, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the following location:

Sheraton Billings Hotel
27 North 27th Street
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 252-7400

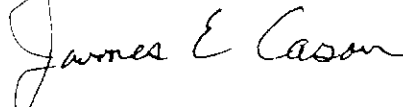
Finally, we have scheduled a third tribal consultation meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 10, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the following location:

Ramada Mall of America
2300 East American Boulevard
(I-494 & 24th Avenue)
Bloomington, MN 55425
(952) 854-3411

Also in conjunction with the public comment period, we encourage tribes, tribal leaders, trust beneficiaries and other individuals working with and on behalf of these groups to submit comments on the proposed regulations. You may submit your comments in writing to Michele Singer, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 4141, Washington, DC 20240. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Singer at (202) 273-4680 or (505) 563-5415.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on these very important trust management reform regulations.

Sincerely,



James E. Cason