



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN - 9 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion interpreting a provision of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 that impacts the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Tribes, see Carcieri v. Salazar, 129 S. Ct. 1058; 172 L. Ed. 2d 791, ___ U.S. ___ (February 29, 2009). In this opinion, the Court interpreted the phrase "Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction" to mean only those tribes under Federal jurisdiction when the IRA was passed in 1934. The Department is committed to supporting the ability of all federally recognized tribes to have lands acquired in trust and seeks the views of tribes on this matter.

In keeping with Interior's commitment on government-to-government consultation, on May 22, 2009, we invited you to attend one or both of the following consultation sessions. A block of rooms has been set aside by the hotel for your convenience.

- Monday, June 29, 2009 (2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) - Hilton Mall of America Hotel, Ballroom #1, 3800 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, Minnesota, (952) 854-2100
- Wednesday, July 1, 2009 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) - Hilton Sacramento Inn, Folsom Room, 2200 Harvard Street, Sacramento, California, (916) 922-4700

In response to numerous requests made by tribes we have added a third consultation session.

- Wednesday, July 8, 2009 (1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) - Sheraton National Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia, (888) 627-8210. Reservations must be made by June 18, 2009. Please mention Carcieri consultation hosted by Indian Affairs when making reservations.

I look forward to your input on this topic and to working together with you to ensure a productive and informed approach as we move forward. Please contact Ms. Paula Hart, Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, at (202) 219-4066 for any additional questions you may have concerning the upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs