

July 1, 2014

Elizabeth Appel
Director
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 4141-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Docket ID: BIA-2013-0007, RIN 1076-AF18
Request for Extension of Comment Period**

Dear Ms. Appel:

The Business Council of Fairfield (Conn.) hereby requests an extension of the comment period on the proposed rule revising the tribal acknowledgment regulations published on May 29, 2014. *See* Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes, 79 Fed. Reg. 30766 (May 29, 2014) (to be codified at 25 C.F.R. pt. 83). As discussed in our comment letter on the June 2013 discussion draft, the proposed changes to 25 C.F.R. Part 83 would result in dramatic consequences for southwestern Connecticut. Despite the clear effect of the proposal on previously denied and potential future tribal acknowledgment decisions in Connecticut, no meeting has been scheduled in our State and a short comment period of only 70 days has been offered for a rulemaking of national significance that would make sweeping changes to regulations that have been in effect for 36 years. BIA can obtain a full record and be properly advised on the proposal only if it provides sufficient time to review this highly detailed proposal. In addition, a public meetings should be scheduled at a neutral location in the State of Connecticut.

Please provide a **90-day extension** to the current comment period so interested parties have sufficient time to review the proposal and submit responsive comments. Please also schedule a public meeting within the State of Connecticut at a venue not associated with an Indian Tribe. Thank you for considering this request.

Very truly yours,



Joseph McGee
V.P., Public Policy & Programs

cc: Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Murphy
Representative James Himes
Representative Rosa DeLauro
Governor Dan Malloy

Attorney General George Jepsen
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Lee Fleming, Dir., Office of Federal Acknowledgment