



August 26, 2020

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Room 501-A
Whitten Bldg.
Washington, DC
20250

Phone # 202-205-2249
Fax # 202-720-1058

Dear Tribal Leaders:

On behalf of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, I am writing to invite you to an upcoming tribal consultation to discuss the Industrial Hemp Interim Final Rule as provided under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (H.R. 2; P.L. 115-334) (“Farm Bill”).

The Secretary recognizes the importance of timely, meaningful, and substantive consultation with tribal leaders with the passage of the Farm Bill and the publication of the Industrial Hemp Interim Final Rule on October 31, 2019 in the Federal Register. The interim final rule became effective upon publication. A new 30-day comment period will be open soon and we would like to invite you, now that there is a growing season under the interim rule, to discuss, share and identify issues and concerns found. By hearing your views, information, concerns, suggestions, and interests on this topic, it ensures that USDA better serves Indian Country and fulfills its government-to-government obligation.

The consultation details are as follows:

Location:	Virtual
Date:	Thursday, September 24, 2020
Time:	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm Eastern Time

Participants can register here: <https://ems8.intellor.com?do=register&t=1&p=832040> after which the participant will receive an email containing dial-in numbers and a personalized access code.

If you have any difficulty registering, please contact Tribal.Relations@usda.gov with the following information:

1. Name
2. Tribe/Organization
3. Title (i.e. chairwoman)
4. City, State
5. Phone
6. Attending? (Y/N)

An agenda for the meeting and a proxy letter template are attached for your reference. We encourage questions in advance of the consultation and encourage this consultation to be a meaningful conversation. We will include letters and resolutions from tribal leaders for consideration and as part of the consultation record. If you wish to submit these, please send them through e-mail at Tribal.Relations@usda.gov.

In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please notify Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) by September 17, 2020. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form to tribal letterhead. This delegation will authorize your designee, in writing, who will attend in your place and the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity.



USDA encourages that your proxy, should one be designated, be an elected tribal leader in recognition of our government-to-government relationship. You are welcome to have program leadership and staff from your nation as observers.

This invitation, along with updates and other useful information, will be posted on the OTR website: <https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations>. Please contact me at Tribal.Relations@usda.gov or 202-205-2249 if you have any questions or wish to submit questions or concerns to be responded to as part of the record. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your valued discussion.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Cullo
Director, Office of Tribal Relations