



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

April 25, 2018

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), I am writing to invite you to an upcoming tribal consultation to discuss the 2018 Farm Bill. The purpose of this meeting is to understand the Indian Country priorities for this legislation and to gather feedback on consultation moving forward.

The meeting will be held on May 14-15, 2018 at The Institute of American Indian Arts, 83 Avan Nu Po Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508. A draft agenda is currently in development. Secretary Perdue will join us on May 14th at 7:30 am.

In the event you wish to send a proxy, please notify The Office of Tribal Relations by May 7, 2018. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form onto tribal letterhead. This designation will authorize your designee, in writing, who will be attending in your place and the estimated time of your absence. Tribal leader positions may not be delegated in perpetuity.

You are welcome to bring program leadership and staff from your Nation to the tribal consultation as observers. We hope that you will be able to join us for this important discussion and value your participation.

We are also interested in your feedback on USDA-related topics to be covered at the meeting. If you could share these items by the May 7th deadline that would be helpful.

Please contact the Office of Tribal Relations at 202-205-2249 or Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov to let us know if you or a designee will attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Cronin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Cronin
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations

Attachment

Designation Form to be copied onto Tribal Letterhead

Linda Cronin
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Suite 501-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Acting Director Cronin:

Under Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,” and USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002 “Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration,” USDA aims to respect Indian tribal self-government and sovereignty, honor tribal treaty and other rights, and meet the responsibilities that arise from the unique legal relationship between the Federal government and Tribal governments. Because duly-elected tribal leaders, or their designee, trigger the government-to-government relationship with the United States, formal administrative requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act do not apply.¹

I am unable to attend the meeting to discuss the upcoming 2018 Farm Bill on May 14 and 15, 2018, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I hereby designate

who holds the position of _____ within the Tribe to act as my proxy for this meeting. The proxy designation will expire on August 14, 2018.

Sincerely,

¹ See the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C. Appendix – Federal Advisory Committee Act; 86 Stat. 770, as amended.)