



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

May 30, 2019

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 and listening session to discuss the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Secretary recognizes the importance of timely, meaningful, and substantive consultation with tribal leaders. With the passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (“2018 Farm Bill”) (H.R. 2; P.L. 115-334), we would like to invite you to participate by hearing your views, information, concerns, suggestions, and interests to ensure that USDA better serves Indian Country and fulfills its government-to-government obligation.

The listening session and consultation will be in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians Midyear Conference and details are as follows:

Location: Nugget Casino & Resort
 1100 Nugget Avenue
 Sparks, NV 89431

Details: **Wednesday 26, 2019 (Listening Session)**
 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Pacific Time

Thursday June 27, 2019 (Consultation)
 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Pacific Time

Room: TBD (will update on OTR website)

If you wish to attend the listening session or consultation, please send an RSVP through email to Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov by June 21, 2019 with the following information:

1. Name:
2. Tribe/Organization:
3. Title (i.e. chairwoman):
4. City, State:
5. Phone:
6. Attending both the consultation and listening session? (Y/N)
7. Issues you are interested in:
8. Would you like to be added to the Office of Tribal Relations newsletter recipient list?



Once finalized, an agenda for each of these meetings will be posted on the Office of Tribal Relations website: www.usda.gov/our-agency/staff-offices/office-tribal-relations-otr/tribal-consultations. We encourage questions in advance of these events and encourage these events to be meaningful conversations. For the consultation, 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 either by mail or through e-mail at Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov.

In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please notify Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) by June 21, 2019. A proxy letter template is attached for your reference. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form to tribal letterhead. This designation 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 bring program leadership and staff from your nation to the tribal consultation as observers.

As you know, the 2018 Farm Bill, and the programs and activities authorized within it, have a broad impact on Indian Country, impacting areas such as agriculture, rural and economic development, forestry, conservation, and energy. USDA has published 2018 Farm Bill and Legislative Principles found at www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018-farm-bill-and-legislative-principles.pdf. Another resource available on the 2018 Farm Bill a summary side-by-side comparison developed by the Congressional Research Service which can be found at crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45525.

This invitation, along with updates and other useful information, will be posted on the OTR website: www.usda.gov/our-agency/staff-offices/office-tribal-relations-otr/tribal-consultations. Please note that various USDA organizations are also conducting listening sessions. OTR encourages participation and will post these opportunities when possible.

Please contact me at Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov or 202-205-2249 if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your valued discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Cullo for".

Diane L. Cullo
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations