



March 31, 2019

**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
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Dear Tribal Leaders:

On behalf of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, please accept this invitation to participate in an upcoming tribal consultation 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 consultation details are as follows:

Location: National Museum of the American Indian
4th St and Independence Ave, SW
Room 4018/4019 Washington, DC 20013

Date: Wednesday May 1, 2019 – Thursday May 2, 2019

Time: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Eastern Time (May 1)
8:00 am – 1:00 pm Eastern Time (May 2)

If you wish to attend the consultation, please send an RSVP through email to Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov with the following information:

1. Name
2. Tribe/Organization
3. Title (i.e. chairwoman)
4. City, State
5. Phone
6. Attending both days? (Y/N)
7. Issues you are interested in

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 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 April 24, 2019. 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 <https://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 <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45525>.

This invitation, along with updates and other useful information, will be posted on the OTR website: <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/staff-offices/office-tribal-relations-otr>. 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Cullo", written over a large, light blue oval scribble.

Diane L. Cullo
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations