



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

March 2, 2011

Ms. Mary Milam
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., MS 4141 – MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Milam:

Please accept this letter as the Chickasaw Nation's response to the letter, dated January 14, 2011, requesting comments on the draft tribal consultation policy for the Department of Interior. We look forward to the development of a policy which focuses on substantive goals and meaningful consultation to improve federal programs in tribal communities and Indian Country.

The Chickasaw Nation provides the following comments:

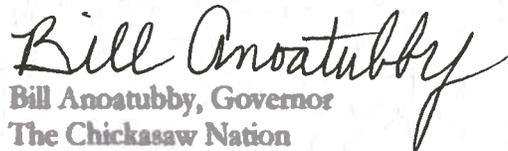
- Several U.S. presidents have issued or re-issued executive orders and memoranda related to tribal consultation, and it is our hope that this policy would become institutionalized within the DOI beyond the term of any single president. Therefore, we suggest that the specific reference to "President Barack Obama's" executive memorandum contained in the fourth paragraph of Section II be modified to reflect a generic reference to such presidential documents.
- The definitions of Tribal Governance Officer (TGO) and Tribal Liaison Official (TLO) contained in paragraphs G and H, respectively, of Section III, both include statements of the roles of these positions. Such statements are not relevant to the definition of such positions, and would be more appropriately listed in paragraph B or C of Section VIII.
- In the fifth paragraph of Section VII, mediation is listed as a form of conflict resolution. Unless this reference is modified to state "non-binding mediation," then we are opposed to the inclusion of such reference.

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- In paragraph C of Section VIII, a reference is made with regard to providing tribal leaders with the same treatment as that of state governors. Alas, we are unaware of how state governors are treated by the Department of Interior, and will not agree to such statement without such knowledge or experience.
- In Section X, we recommend adding another statement at the end as follows: "Any final action of the Department with regard to a Department Action with Tribal Implications involving only a single tribe or region shall not be utilized to establish a precedent for consultation or final action on similar Department Actions with Tribal Implications involving other tribes or regions."
- Numerous minor grammatical, punctuation and capitalization errors are contained throughout the document. Please edit the policy properly prior to publication as a final document.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas John, administrator of self governance, at (580) 436-7214.

Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation