



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS
Washington, DC 20240



June 28, 2010

Chairman John Barrett
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Dear Chairman Barrett:

This letter is to update you on the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians' (OST) project to revise the tribal shares allocation formulas for the Real Estate Appraisals program. These formulas are used to apportion funds to tribes that are interested in, or presently are, contracting or compacting the Real Estate Appraisal function pursuant to P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, as amended [25 U.S.C. §450j-1(a)].

During the summer of 2009, OST sponsored a series of six tribal consultation meetings to explore the development of a new tribal shares formula. These meetings were held throughout Indian country and the transcripts are available on the DOI/OST Website:

http://www.ost.doi.gov/new/Tribal_SharesRevDBP.html.

In addition, written comments/suggestions were accepted.

OST's tribal shares team (TST) reviewed both oral and written comments received during the consultation process. As a result of the consultations and comments received, the methodology recommended by the TST for calculating tribal shares for the appraisal program was a workload-based formula that averages tribal workload over the most recent five years.

Although the formal consultation process has concluded, the TST has recommended that, prior to issuing a final Federal decision, a small Tribal-Federal Workgroup (Workgroup) be formed to help shape the final decision and balance the competing interests.

Please consider nominating one person from your tribe for this Workgroup, keeping in mind the following

1. OST will need to receive your nominee's contact information by Monday, July 19, 2010.
2. The overall goal of the Workgroup will be to recommend fair and equitable solutions to issues regarding revising the tribal shares allocation formula.
3. A tribal representative's experience in P.L. 93-638, and a working knowledge of real estate appraisal concepts and terminology will greatly aid the Workgroup, which will have a short period of time to accomplish this important work.

4. If OST receives a large number of tribal nominees, OST will use a process to select a small group of the most qualified nominees, taking into account such factors as geographical distribution, tribes currently compacting or contracting the appraisal program, and tribes that receive direct services for appraisals.
5. The Workgroup's recommendations are targeted to be completed by August 2010.

Please submit your nominee's contact information either by: 1) by emailing Ms. Iris Crisman, Deputy Director, Office of Appraisal Services at iris_crisman@ost.doi.gov; or 2) by faxing a letter to Ms. Crisman at (505) 796-3129:

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians
ATTENTION: Iris Crisman
4400 Masthead Street N.E.
Albuquerque NM 87109

I appreciate your interest in partnering with us in this important endeavor to revise the appraisal tribal shares allocation formula.

Sincerely,



Donna Erwin,
Principal Deputy Special Trustee for
American Indians

cc:

Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs
OSG Director
BIA Director
OST Deputy Special Trustee – Field Operations
OST Director, Office of Appraisal Services
OST Director, Office of External Affairs