

IHS TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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*Sent via email: linda.wooten@treasury.gov
Original sent via USPS*

September 19, 2014

Dr. Elaine Buckberg
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
Office of Economic Policy
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

RE: Announcement Regarding Applying for Exemption through Tax Filing

Dear Dr. Buckberg:

On behalf of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), I write to express our gratitude for your partnership and advocacy. We recently learned that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of the Treasury were able to develop guidelines that will allow American Indians and Alaska Natives eligible for service through the Indian Health Service (IHS) to obtain a hardship exemption from the shared responsibility payment through the tax filing process.

We were elated to hear that the Administration worked collaboratively to find a solution that will help maximize the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives who will be able to benefit from this exemption. As you are aware, enabling this process has been a TSGAC recommendation for some time and we are truly thankful that you and others on your staff worked to make this possible for Indian Country.

This announcement is an affirmation of the Administration's commitment to continually work with Tribal leaders to find effective solutions. I look forward to continuing our partnership to improve the health and welfare of all Tribal members. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe
Chairwoman, TSGAC

cc: TSGAC and Technical Workgroup Members
Mr. P. Benjamin Smith, Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, IHS