

IHS TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education

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Sent Electronically to: Denise.Turk@ihs.gov

July 27, 2015

Mr. Robert G. McSwain, Principal Deputy Director
Indian Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Suite 440, The Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852-1627

RE: Multi-Purpose Agreement and Joinder Agreement & ISAC Presentation

Dear Principal Deputy Director McSwain:

Thank you for your recent attendance at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC) Quarterly Meeting held last week on July 21, 2015 in Washington, DC. Your continued leadership within IHS is critical as Tribal leadership looks to advance several Tribal priorities in the remaining months of this Administration.

One area that remains a top priority for Self-Governance Tribes is meeting Meaningful Use (MU) 2 requirements and preparing for Meaningful Use 3. Meeting the requirements during each stage of MU safeguards the system as technology advances and ensures additional revenue for the system. In the process of making these updates, IHS sought out Tribal feedback on the Multi-Purpose Agreement (MPA) and Joinder agreement in a Dear Tribal Leader Letter on March 12, 2015.

Though TSGAC appreciates IHS's commitment to Tribal Consultation on this issue, we learned that IHS has approved and executed the MPA, without responding to the submitted comments on the MPA and Joinder agreement. These documents are critical to ensuring our partnership since both the Tribe and IHS are signatories on the agreement. Often Tribes pull from resources across their health system to develop comments for a highly specialized area such as technology and replies from IHS acknowledging those comments and reflecting how the agency implemented those comments are very helpful in our partnership. We hope that the Office of Information Technology (OIT) did address the Tribal comments submitted and are able to follow up by providing a reply in the near future, so Tribes can better understand how the agency is moving forward.

During our recent meeting, TSGAC also discussed their search for a representative to the IHS Information Systems Advisory Council (ISAC). Representation on this Council is important for Self-Governance Tribes. TSGAC would like to make sure the correct candidate is chosen to represent them. As such, OIT committed to hosting a Webinar for TSGAC representatives who are interested in serving on the ISAC so they could understand the responsibilities and commitment. We appreciate the offer and look forward to working with OIT to select an appropriate representative and provide Self-Governance feedback to the Administration.

Thank you again for your attendance as well as your resolve to respond to Tribal feedback and guidance. We look forward to seeing you at the next TSGAC quarterly meeting in October 2015. Should you need additional information or have questions regarding this letter and request, please contact me at (860) 862-6192; or via email: lmalerba@moheganmail.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe
Chairwoman, TSGAC

cc: P. Benjamin Smith, Director, OTSG, IHS
CDR Mark Rives, MBA, MSCIS, Director, Office of Information Technology, IHS
TSGAC and Technical Workgroup