

TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education

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Sent electronically: Denise.Turk@ihs.gov

April 18, 2016

Mary Smith, Principal Deputy Director
Indian Health Service
The Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Recommendations for Health Care Facilities

Dear Ms. Smith:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), I write to respond to your request during our March 30-31, 2016 IHS TSGAC meeting by offering the following recommendations on health care facilities recommendations for your consideration:

1. Open up the Joint Venture Construction Program every three years. As you know, this program has been very successful for both IHS and Tribes over several years and should be open on a regular consistent basis.
2. Partner with United States Department of Agriculture for construction of facilities.
3. Adopt efficient and streamlined process for each of the IHS construction programs within the Office of Environmental Health & Engineering.
4. Provide the flexibility for Tribes to use future federal funds to pay back a loan.
5. Advocate for a line item that provides for loan guarantees, much like the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Loan Guarantee Program. The BIA current receives approximately \$7m and leverages over \$100m.

We believe that together we can develop and implement some very innovative programs in order to alleviate some of the construction backlogs that currently exist for Indian health care facilities.

Thank you again for attending our March 30-31 meeting and we look forward to continuing our work with you on this and many other initiatives in Indian Country. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860)862-6192; or via email:

lmalerba@moheganmail.com.

Sincerely,



Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
Chairwoman, IHS TSGAC

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