**TO: [BIA Region]**

**FROM: [Name of SGAC Member], Department of the Interior Self-Governance Advisory Committee (DOI-SGAC) and [Name of Technical Workgroup Member], SGAC Technical Workgroup Representative(s)**

**Subject: 2017 July DOI Self-Governance Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Summary**

The Department of the Interior’s Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) met July 19-20, 2017 in Washington, DC. The Committee received updates from the Office of Self-Governance, the Office of Budget Management – Indian Affairs, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Dr. Gavin Clarkson. During the meeting the Committee also discussed current topics, including updating the “Traders with Indians” regulations (25 CFR Part 140), current legislation, and opportunities for Self-Governance expansion within the Environmental Protection Agency.

Below is a brief summary of the discussion and follow-up actions from the meeting. A detailed summary of the meeting will be available soon on the SGCE website, [www.tribalselfgov.org](http://www.tribalselfgov.org).

**SGAC Business:**

The SGAC approved the nomination of Secretary, Jane Rohl of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, to serve as Midwest Region Alternate Representative to SGAC.

**Discussion Summary:**

Legislative Update:

Though most of the legislative agenda has been dominated by Health Care Reform, the Senate and House are considering other legislation that is critical to Tribes, including a few education bills like the reauthorization of Esther Martinez Language bill and legislation to update Johnson O’Malley. Congress is also considering updated changes to the 477 legislation that nearly passed last year and the Senate has hosted a hearing on the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHSDA) reauthorization which has been held up due to congressional disagreement over the inclusion of Native Hawaiians. Four Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations bills are expected to move forward, with the remaining to be left for the reconciliation process and possibly tax reform. At this time, amendments to Title IV have not been reintroduced and Tribal representatives are still trying to identify congressional champions in the House before the Senate moves forward. This may be an area which Self-Governance Tribes would like to concentrate on during the latter part of this first session.

Office of Self-Governance (OSG) Update

OSG provided an update regarding effects the President’s FY 2018 Budget Request would have on the Office’s operations, chief among those being reduction of OSG staff to just four individuals. SGAC expressed concerns that reductions to OSG were not equal to those in the BIA Regional offices performing similar functions on behalf of Title I Tribes. SGC has agreed to share a [form letter](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/OSG-Funding-Support-Form-Letter.docx) for members to use in discussions with appropriators. Additionally, OSG reported that it has received more than $418 million in program funding for FY 2017 and distributed nearly $79 million for Contract Support Costs (CSC). Director Freeman also shared that just under half a million dollars (or 0.4%) remain in outstanding CSC overpayments for FY 2016. OSG has been instructed to close out all CSC FY2017 payments by September 30, 2017 and is requesting that all Tribes submit the [CSC Data Calculation](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CSC-Data-Call-SG-DTL-Letter.pdf) worksheet as soon as possible.

Comments on Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch

The SGAC reviewed draft comments provided by the sub-workgroup assigned in March to respond to this executive order. [The comments were approved and submitted.](https://www.tribalselfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017-7-15_SGAC_DOIReorganizationLetter.pdf) Despite the July 15th deadline, Tribes are encouraged submit their own comments as the Department plans to make additional Senior Executive Service (SES) changes prior to the nomination of a new Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs.

Budget Update

Amber Ebarb from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) provided an update regarding the current FY 2018 appropriations process. Most importantly, she noted that the Committee was very supportive of the Tribal Programs and did not start with the President’s budget framework. The FY 2018 appropriations for Interior did not include cuts from the framework and actually provided increases over FY 2017. You can see NCAI’s full analysis of the Interior Appropriations bill is in the full meeting packet [here](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FINAL_SGAC_Meeting_Packet_July2017.pdf). George Bearpaw, Director, Office of Budget Management, Indian Affairs, provided an update of the President’s FY 2018 budget request and FY 2019 budget submission. Mr. Bearpaw reported that the Indian Affairs submitted a budget to the Department that focused on energy and infrastructure development and programs that serve Tribes nationwide. Additional information regarding the FY 2019 submission was not available because it is currently under an embargo. SGAC asked many questions regarding the FY 2020 budget formulation process and opportunities to improve the process. Mr. Bearpaw agreed and stated the BIA is continuing to work on improvements for the Fall, including, updating the budget survey, providing additional training and technical assistance to Tribes and hosting a national budget formulation roll-out call to ensure all regions and Tribes receive similar instructions on the process.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development

Dr. Gavin Clarkson joined the Committee to provide a vision for how he plans to move forward under his new position. Overall, his vision is to support Tribes through economic development, Tribal empowerment, and human capital development. His first efforts within the Department are expected to be on updating the Traders with Indians regulations and identifying other burdensome regulations for review. Dr. Clarkson requested that Tribes provide data regarding the effects of Traders with Indians and other burdensome regulations. The data should illustrate loss of economic opportunity, infringement of Tribal Sovereignty and/or costs to Tribal governments.

**Actions and Requests from the Committee**

* Register for the 2017 Tribal Self-Governance Strategic Planning Session [here](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/event/self-governance-strategy-session/).
* Book your room for the October Quarterly meeting [here](https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/event/tsgacsgac-4th-quarter-advisory-committee-meeting-17/).
* Submit comments on EO 13781 to consultation@bia.gov.
* Mark your calendars for the 2017 and 2018 Self-Governance meetings noted below.

You can download materials from the July Quarterly meeting [here](http://www.tribalselfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FINAL_SGAC_Meeting_Packet_July2017.pdf).

If you have questions or issues you would like SGAC to consider at the next Quarterly Meeting, please share those with Jennifer McLaughlin, SGAC Tribal Technical Co-Chair, at jmclaughlin@jamestowntribe.org on or before **Friday, September 15, 2017**.

Thank you!

Self-Governance 2017 Calendar of Events

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| **Date** | **Meeting** | **Location** |
| September 6-7 | Tribal Self-Governance Strategy Session | Mohegan SunUncasville, CT |
| October 24-25 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| October 25-26 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting |

Self-Governance 2018 Calendar of Events

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| **Date** | **Meeting** | **Location** |
| January 23-24 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| January 24-25 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| March 27-28 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| March 28-29 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| April 22-26 | Annual Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference | Albuquerque Convention CenterAlbuquerque, NM |
| July 17-18 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting  | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| July 18-19 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting |
| September 5-6 | Tribal Self-Governance Strategy Session | TBD |
| October 2-3 | DOI SGAC Quarterly Meeting | Embassy Suites – DC Convention Center |
| October 3-4 | IHS TSGAC Quarterly Meeting  |