

IHS Tribal SELF-GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education
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Sent electronically to: Denise.Turk@ihs.gov

June 7, 2021

Elizabeth Fowler, Acting Director
Indian Health Service
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Health Information Technology Modernization Summit Request

Dear Acting Director Fowler:

On behalf of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), I am writing to request that the Office of Information Technology and relevant partners convene and host a summit to receive detailed information regarding the Health Information Technology (HIT) Modernization efforts.

TSGAC appreciates the recent updates provided by Director Thornbrugh and we support the broad initiative to modernize and improve the hardware, software, and governance that supports health care delivery in IHS, Tribal, and urban operated health care facilities. Any changes or improvements made to IHS infrastructure will undoubtedly have significant impact on Tribally operated facilities. As such, it is critically important for Tribal leaders and experts to have a strong understanding of the choices under consideration and the recommendations being proposed by the Office of Information Technology.

To date, information available about this initiative has primarily been received through short updates from Director Thornbrugh. While these are very valuable, they do not allow for meaningful engagement, input or understanding from Tribal leaders and other stakeholders. Hosting a longer summit with virtual and in-person participation options would provide greater access and focus these discussions so that all parties can engage, provide meaningful input and move forward collectively.

TSGAC and the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium have identified this summit as a top priority and stand ready to provide necessary support in advertising and ensuring attendance at the summit. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing more about the modernization efforts. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly regarding any questions you may have at (860) 862-6192; or via email: lmalerba@moheganmail.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Mitch Thornbrugh, Director, Office of Information Technology, IHS
Jennifer Cooper, Director, Office of Tribal Self-Governance, IHS
Jay Spaan, Executive Director, Self-Governance Communication and Education
TSGAC and Technical Workgroup Members