Self-Governance Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary/Key Points

August 3, 2022

Attendance:

A quorum was not established for the meeting and committee business was not conducted. In addition, due to external circumstances, the meeting was significantly abbreviated. However, SGAC representatives and other Tribal leaders met with DOI leadership to discuss several key issues and topics, including:

* PROGRESS Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee
  + DOI must seek an extension of more time for the rulemaking process, but this is not a reason to delay the process – the Committee needs to complete the rules as soon as possible. DOI officials indicated it is working with Congress to get more time for completing the rules.
* Staffing for the Office of Self-Governance
  + SGAC is concerned that OSG is not adequately staffed and requests that the Department ensure the office has the staff needed to do its job. A Tribal official suggested the Department evaluate or consider using IPAs to address staffing shortages.
* Small Tribe Supplement – DOI officials stated they are coordinating internally to discuss the Small Tribes Supplement funding and gave themselves an August 15, 2022 deadline.
* Data – Tribal officials expressed continued concerns about the Labor Force Report and other federal agency collection and use of Tribal population numbers. Chairman Allen suggested that the White House Council on Native American Affairs consider working on this topic, in coordination with the TIBC data workgroup. Chairman Allen also suggested that BIA should be the central repository for the federal government to house Tribal population and other critical data for Indian Country.
* The continued delays for processing land into trust was raised as a concern by Tribal officials.
* Public Safety – Tribal leaders expressed concern that the recent Castro decision from the Supreme Court is a threat to sovereignty and asked what actions DOI is taking to protect Tribal sovereignty. DOI officials noted that Bob Anderson is taking the lead evaluating response options. Chairman Allen also noted the importance of coordination between DOJ and DOI on this issue.