



November 13, 2019

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Room 501-A
Whitten Bldg.
Washington, DC
20250

Phone # 202-205-2249
Fax # 202-720-1058

Dear Tribal Leaders:

On behalf of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, I am writing to invite you to an upcoming tribal consultation to discuss the Industrial Hemp Interim Final Rule as provided under the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Secretary recognizes the importance of timely, meaningful, and substantive consultation with tribal leaders with the passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (H.R. 2; P.L. 115-334) hereinafter referred to as the "2018 Farm Bill" and the publication of the [Industrial Hemp Interim Final Rule](#) on October 31, 2019 in the Federal Register. The interim final rule became effective upon publication. USDA invites public comment on the interim rule and the information collection burden. [Written comments](#) may be submitted until December 30, 2019.

We would like to invite you to participate. By hearing your views, information, concerns, suggestions, and interests on this topic, it ensures that USDA better serves Indian Country and fulfills its government-to-government obligation.

The Tribal Hemp Consultation details are as follows:

Location: Hard Rock Café
4455 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV 89169
Date: Wednesday December 11, 2019
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00 pm - Hemp Consultation
Room: TBD

If you wish to attend the consultation, please send an RSVP through email to Tribal.Relations@usda.gov with the following information:

1. Name
2. Tribe/Organization
3. Title (i.e. chairwoman)
4. City, State
5. Phone
6. Attending December 11, 2019? (Y/N)
7. Issues you are interested in

Attached is a sample proxy letter for your reference. We encourage questions in advance of the consultation and encourage this consultation to be a meaningful conversation. We will include letters and resolutions from tribal leaders for consideration and as part of the consultation record. If you wish to submit these, please send them either by mail or through e-mail at Tribal.Relations@usda.gov.

In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please notify Office of



Tribal Relations (OTR) by December 2, 2019. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form to tribal letterhead. This designation will authorize your designee, in writing, who will attend in your place and the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity. USDA encourages that your proxy, should one be designated, be an elected tribal leader in recognition of our government-to-government relationship. You are welcome to bring program leadership and staff from your nation to the tribal consultation as observers.

This invitation, along with updates and other useful information, will be posted on the OTR website:

<https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/staff-offices/office-tribal-relations-otr>.

Please contact me at Tribal.Relations@usda.gov or 202-205-2249 if you have any questions or wish to submit questions to be responded to as part of the record. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your valued discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Cullo", written over a large, light-colored oval scribble.

Diane L. Cullo
Director, Office of Tribal Relations