



Native American Contractors Association

Protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples to create economic development through government contracting

May 4, 2026

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Loeffler,

On behalf of the undersigned Native community-owned small businesses participating in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program, we respectfully submit this letter to share our concerns regarding the pace and status of recent application reviews and determinations within the program.

We understand that there have been few, if any, new Native community-owned 8(a) business application approvals in recent months, with approvals appearing to have stopped since August of 2025. We also note a reduction in total approvals for Native community-owned firms during 2025. In addition, some applicants have experienced extended review periods—in certain cases exceeding one year—despite the processing timelines set forth in SBA's regulations. Specifically, SBA's rules provide that the Agency will advise an applicant within 15 days of receipt whether an application is complete and suitable for evaluation and, if not, what additional information is required, and will process an 8(a) application within 90 days of receipt of an application package deemed complete.¹ See 13 C.F.R. § 124.204(a)(3)–(4). We are concerned that these conditions may be creating challenges for prospective participants, particularly for Native-owned firms, which serve broader Tribal and Native communities and carry significant social and economic responsibilities.

The 8(a) Business Development Program remains a vital pathway for Native community-owned small businesses to access federal contracting opportunities, strengthen organizational capacity, and contribute to the national economy. For many Native communities, federal contracting represents a significant source of economic activity, with resulting revenues supporting essential services such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and public safety. Participation in the program plays an important role in fostering economic stability and long-term growth within these communities.

We note that extended delays in application determinations may create uncertainty for Native community-owned small business applicants and the communities they serve. Many businesses invest

¹ [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/part-124#p-124.204\(a\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/part-124#p-124.204(a))

considerable time and resources in preparing for participation, including establishing compliant business structures, developing leadership teams, and aligning operations with program requirements. Prolonged timelines can affect planning, workforce development, and investment decisions made in reliance on the program's established framework. In turn, these challenges may have broader implications for community stability and economic development.

We ask that the Small Business Administration consider the following actions:

1. Resuming the timely review and determination of all pending Native community participant 8(a) applications consistent with 13 C.F.R. § 124.204(a)(3)–(4), including the 15-day completeness determination and the 90-day processing period after an application package is deemed complete; and
2. Provide clear and transparent communication to pending applicants, including an anticipated timeline for when application determinations may be issued.

We appreciate the SBA's continued commitment to supporting small businesses and fostering economic opportunity across the country. Given the importance of the 8(a) Program to Native communities, we urge timely attention to these concerns and welcome continued engagement with the agency to support effective and consistent program implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Afognak Native Corporation
Ahtna, Inc.

Akiak Technology, LLC

Alaka'ina Foundation

Alaka'i Services

Aleut Corporation

Bering Straits Native Corporation

Buffalo Horse, Inc.

Calista Corporation

Cheroenhaka Nottoway Enterprises, LLC

Chenega Corporation

Chugach Alaska Corporation

Colusa Indian Energy

Cook Inlet Region, Inc

Dine Development Corporation

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Far West Ventures

GSI Government Services

Hawaii Pacific Foundation

Hawaiian Native Corporation

Katmai Government Services

Hui Huliau

HunaTek

Kaw Nation Industries

Kinaole Family Of Companies

Koniag

Kootznoowoo, Inc

Kutwah, LLC

Laulo Pono Foundation

Lumbee Holdings

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

MNO BMadsen

Mohawk Networks
Morongo Band Of Mission Indians
Na Oivi Kane
Nakupuna Companies
Nipoa Group
NTVI Federal, Inc
Old Harbor Native Corporation
Oneida ESC Group
Poarch Creek Indians Federal Services
Potawatomi Ventures
Puyenpa, LLC

Quivera Enterprises
Sault Tribe Incorporated Federal
Tepa LLC
The Akana Group
Tigua Inc.
Tribal One
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation
Wichita Tribe Industrial Development
Commission
Yukon West

cc: The Honorable Senator Alan S. Armstrong
The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Senator Katie Britt
The Honorable Senator Ted Budd
The Honorable Senator John Cornyn
The Honorable Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
The Honorable Senator Ted Cruz
The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
The Honorable Senator Ruben Gallego
The Honorable Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
The Honorable Senator Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Senator Mazie Hirono
The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson
The Honorable Senator Tim Kaine
The Honorable Senator Mark Kelly
The Honorable Senator James Lankford
The Honorable Senator Ben Ray Lujan
The Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Senator Chris
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Senator Gary Peters
The Honorable Senator Jacky Rosen
The Honorable Senator Brian Schatz
The Honorable Senator Adam Schiff
The Honorable Senator Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Senator Tim Sheehy
The Honorable Senator Elissa Slotkin
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The Honorable Representative Bill Huizenga
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The Honorable Representative Barry Moore
The Honorable Representative Gwen Moore
The Honorable Representative Raul Ruiz
The Honorable Representative Elise Stefanik
The Honorable Representative Dale Strong
The Honorable Representative Tim Walberg
The Honorable Representative Jill Tokuda
The Honorable Representative Ryan Zinke
Alex Meyer, Deputy Assistant to the President,
Director of Office of Intergovernmental Affairs