

Fort Belknap Indian Community



Fort Belknap Agency
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, Montana 59526-9455
PH: (406) 353-2205
FAX: Council - (406) 353-4541
FAX: Departments - (406) 353-2797

Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre
Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

January 30, 2018

Hon. Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Hon. John Tahsuda III, Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (PDAS)
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-4660-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Msrs. Zinke and Tahsuda:


This letter is in response to your December 06, 2017 Letter to Tribal Leaders announcing the revised schedule for upcoming meetings regarding potential revisions 25 CFR Part 151. While we are appreciative of the attempt to gather input from the various tribes, a meeting in an area that is more assessible for the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions are not included on the list.

This omission creates a hardship on tribes in these areas as posted areas will require enhanced travel costs and limit the amount of representative leadership that will be able to attend and dialogue with federal representative. The ability to travel is heightened by the inclement weather. These issues are *crucial* to our tribes that have a large land base and go the heart of our continued existence.

In order to allow better representation of tribes from all areas, we are requesting that a meeting be held in Billings, MT to allow tribes from the Plains to attend and participate in this very important issue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to call me at 406 353-8303 if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,


ANDREW WERK, Jr.
President

Xc: FBIC Council
Rocky Mtn Tribal Leaders Council
Ft. Belknap Agency -BIA Supt.

RECEIVED

FEB 06 2018

DCN: 1A00007011
Executive Secretariat - Indian Affairs (ESIA)