



APR 26 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to update you about recent developments to advance the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to implement the Buy Indian Act of 1910 and amend the regulations for IHS contracting policy and procedures (Buy Indian Act, 25 U.S.C. § 47).

In November 2020, the IHS, an agency within HHS, initiated Tribal Consultation on the IHS contracting policy and procedures associated with implementing the Buy Indian Act and on the NPRM to respond to longstanding recommendations from Tribes and Tribal Organizations for the Agency to enforce Buy Indian Act authority when carrying out Federal procurement activities (85 FR 71596, published on November 10, 2020, comment period ending January 11, 2021).

In an effort to support requests from the public and Tribes to extend the comment period, HHS has reopened Docket No. OI-2012-0005, *Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting*, and a 60-day comment period has been established. Written comments on the Buy Indian Act NPRM are due by Monday, June 21, 2021. Information on submitting comments on the NPRM is available online at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/21/2021-07455/acquisition-regulations-buy-indian-act-procedures-for-contracting-reopening-and-extension-of-comment>. The IHS will also be hosting an additional virtual Tribal Consultation session prior to the close of this new comment period.

If you have any questions regarding the Buy Indian Act NPRM, or the forthcoming Tribal Consultation session, please directly contact Mr. Santiago Almaraz, Acting Director, Office of Management Services, IHS, by e-mail at santiago.almaraz@ihs.gov.

I look forward to your feedback and recommendations.

Sincerely,

/Elizabeth A. Fowler/
Acting Director