

June 30, 2010

[Name]

[Tribal Leader]

[Address]

[City, State,Zip]

Dear [Tribal Leader],

President Barack Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are committed to ensuring that the U. S. Department of Agriculture faithfully serves Tribal organizations and individual Native Americans and Alaskan Natives. I write today to invite you to consult with USDA with regard to the **Purchasers of Highly Fractionated Land Loan Program** and the **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program** provisions in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is charged with administering these important provisions and will be hosting consultation meetings at the following locations and dates:

August 3, 2010 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm at the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall, Fourth Street & Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC;

August 10, 2010 from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, Oregon;

August 24, 2010 from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm at the Wingate by Wyndham, 1801 Majestic Lane, Billings, Montana;

August 25, 2010 from 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, 444 North Mount Rushmore Road, Rapid City, South Dakota;

August 30, 2010 from 9:30 am-5:00 pm at the Embassy Suites Oklahoma City – Will Rogers World Airport, 1815 South Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and

August 31, 2010 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Road NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The purpose of the meetings is to solicit input that will help FSA develop and finalize regulations to implement these sections of the 2008 Farm Bill. I request that you, or an official to represent your tribe, be present at this session to engage in consultation on these new FSA programs.

Meeting details are also available on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Written comments may also be submitted no later than September 1, 2010 by any of the following methods:

- E-Mail: [connie.holman@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:connie.holman@wdc.usda.gov);
- Fax: (202) 720-6797 or (202) 690-1117; or
- Mail: USDA FSA/FLP/LMD, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 0522, Washington, DC 20250.

To facilitate your preparation and participation, we are attaching a copy of the Farm Bill provisions and a list of questions designed to solicit responses from you that will guide USDA's subsequent rulemaking efforts relating to the **Highly Fractionated Land Loan Program** and the **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program**. We hope that you will help us to understand your needs and the challenges associated with delivering these programs in your area.

It is the mission of USDA FSA to improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. I look forward to consulting with you as part of this process.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the provisions, or this tribal consultation process by phone to Connie Holman or Mike Hinton at (202) 720-1472 or Lynn Tjeerdsma at (202) 720-3175 or by email at [connie.holman@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:connie.holman@wdc.usda.gov), [mike.hinton@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:mike.hinton@wdc.usda.gov), or [lynn.tjeerdsma@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:lynn.tjeerdsma@wdc.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Coppess

Administrator

Attachment