



**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

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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 Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The purpose of this meeting is to continue our discussions with tribal leaders regarding the priorities and needs of tribal communities who operate FDPIR.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the USDA Jamie L Whitten Building, 1400 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, DC 20250, following the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session. A report-out from the December 2017 FDPIR consultation is enclosed. A draft agenda is currently under development.

In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please notify OTR by February 8, 2018. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form onto tribal letterhead. This designation will authorize your designee, in writing, who will be attending in your place and the estimated time of your absence. Tribal leader positions may not be delegated in perpetuity.

You are welcome to bring program leadership and staff from your Nation to the tribal consultation as observers. USDA encourages that your proxy, should one be designated, be an elected tribal leader in recognition of our government-to-government relationship.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this important discussion. Please contact me at Tribal.Relations@osec.usda.gov to let me know if you or a designee will attend and if you have any items for the agenda. Thank you for your continued service to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Keel", written in a cursive style.

Ben Keel
Director of Tribal Relations

Attachments

Designation Form to be copied onto Tribal Letterhead

Mr. Ben Keel
Director, Office of Tribal Relations
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Suite 500-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Director Keel:

Under Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," and USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002 "Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration," USDA aims to respect Indian tribal self-government and sovereignty, honor tribal treaty and other rights, and meet the responsibilities that arise from the unique legal relationship between the Federal government and Tribal governments. Because duly-elected tribal leaders, or their designee, trigger the government-to-government relationship with the United States, formal administrative requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act do not apply.¹

I am unable to attend the meeting to discuss the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations on February 15, 2018, in Washington, D.C. I hereby designate

who holds the position of _____ within
the Tribe to act as my proxy for this meeting. The proxy designation will expire on
May 15, 2018.

Sincerely,

¹ See the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C. Appendix - Federal Advisory Committee Act; 86 Stat. 770, as amended.)