



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

July 2, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services (BIA/OJS) intends to seek meaningful and timely consultation with Tribes that are located in states where Public Law 83-280 mandates criminal jurisdiction over crimes committed on Indian land to the state.

Specifically, Public Law 118-42, FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act, included the following language directing the BIA to consult with affected Tribes:

“The Committees note that a number of States with large Indian populations have no law enforcement presence in Tribal communities and Alaska Native Villages despite high crime rates; however, these Tribes are not eligible for certain Native justice funding simply because they are located in Public Law 280 States. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Bureau is directed to conduct Tribal consultation on the budgetary needs of Tribal law enforcement, including wellness courts and other essential judicial needs for the Tribes in these States, and report back to the Committees on the available Federal funding, within the Department of the Interior or elsewhere, for these Tribes or outlining the barriers to the development of such funding.”

Accordingly, our primary goal is to get a better understanding of the budgetary needs of your Tribal justice system. However, we are also soliciting any other comments, concerns, and recommendations that you would like to express regarding state jurisdiction under Public Law 83-280 on Tribal lands.

We will hold the consultation virtually on August 7, 2024, at 1:00PM ET at this Zoom link: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfuCvqzkqE24chsHVqfGdTr-_vaeS-3c. This consultation will be open to all Tribes affected by Public Law 83-280.

You may provide written comments to consultation@bia.gov by 11:59PM ET on August 14, 2024. If you have questions regarding this consultation, please contact Kevin Martin, Office of Justice Services, at kevin.martin@bia.gov or at (202) 657-3620.

Sincerely,

Darryl LaCounte
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs