



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Tribal Justice

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Washington, D.C. 20530-0001*

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OTJ@usdoj.gov*

March 31, 2025

Ms. Liz Malerba
Coalition of Tribal Organizations¹
c/o United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Suite 406
Washington, DC 20036
LMalerba@usetinc.org

Dear Ms. Malerba,

Thanks to you and to all of those who are represented in this coalition of Tribal organizations for reaching out to the Department to express your concerns and offer partnership on our shared goals. The government-to-government nature of our relationship with Tribes enables us to work in partnership on public safety issues, which will be foundational to our efforts. Your letter included specific requests, to which I am pleased to offer a response.

Your letter asks that the Department engage with Tribes prior to taking action that will impact Tribes. The Department of Justice's Consultation Policy continues to be in effect and mandates that the Department will consult with federally recognized Tribes before formulating or implementing policies that have Tribal implications. In addition to the consultation policy, the Department's Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) serves as a primary point of contact for Tribes and Tribal organizations with respect to questions and comments regarding policies and programs of the Department and issues relating to public safety and justice in Indian country. Please continue to reach out to OTJ to discuss any matters of concern.

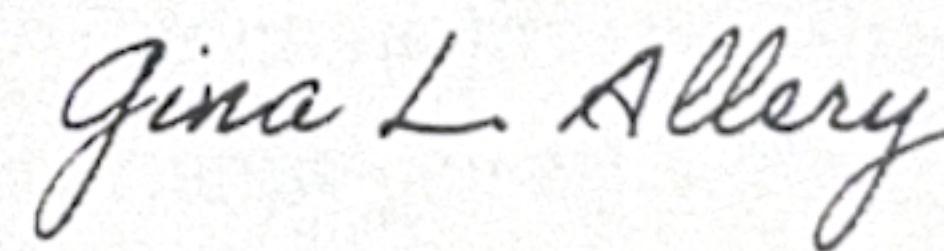
¹ Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; American Indian Higher Education Consortium; Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, Inc.; Indian Gaming Association; Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona; Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes; National American Indian Court Judges Association; National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development; National Congress of American Indians; National Council of Urban Indian Health; National Indian Child Welfare Association; National Indian Education Association; United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund; United Tribes of Michigan

In your letter, you seek assurance that the Department differentiates between diversity, equity, inclusion, or accessibility programs and our responsibilities to Tribal governments. The Department views work related to Tribes, Tribal sovereignty, Tribal programs and funding, and our broader Indian country responsibilities as separate from diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI or DEIA) or environmental justice (EJ). Our work across the Department to support Tribal governments, including our Tribal funding programs, is ongoing. If you believe DOJ programs, funding streams, or services in your communities have been impacted by DEI/DEIA or EJ-related directives I encourage you to reach out to OTJ to have a more in-depth discussion about your specific concerns.

Your letter also seeks assurances that Departmental personnel and programs will not be impacted by reorganization or reduction-related efforts. It is heartening to hear that you value the Tribally-focused work of the Department. The Department has committed to consulting with stakeholders as appropriate, to include Tribal consultation, on any agency reduction in force and reorganization plans that receive approval.

Thank you again for reaching out to the Department and we look forward to a productive partnership on public safety issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina L. Allery".

Gina L. Allery
Director