



<DATE>

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting your assistance as a part of our efforts to prepare for the 2020 Census. The race and ethnicity question allows for your tribal citizens to write detailed tribal information. We want to ensure that we are coding your response to the race and ethnicity question accurately using our classification list. Your input on this list is extremely important, so that we may learn from you the various ways in which individuals report your tribe. This list is the primary basis for what we collect, code, and tabulate for American Indian and Alaska Native populations. In order to use your feedback, we respectfully ask for your input before March 31, 2018.

This list presently includes the 567 tribal entities federally recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as state-recognized tribes, and other tribal responses. We update this code list with guidance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which issues a Federal Register Notice to update tribe name changes and add newly federally recognized tribes. The current list was compiled from previous census responses, as well as earlier consultation with tribes and tribal leaders. The Census Bureau cannot tell you or your tribal citizens how to identify your tribal identity or what to write in. We can, however, work with you to understand how you and your tribal citizens may report your respective identity and ensure it is properly coded and tabulated to provide the most meaningful data to benefit your communities.

Enclosed with this letter, please find a copy of the code list for your tribe, as well as your tribal grouping. A tribal grouping is a Census Bureau convention that is used to present summary data, which combines individual tribes, in Census products. Please provide us with your feedback on the terms included in the code list and the perceived utility of tribal groupings, as well as suggestions regarding possibly omitted ways in which individuals may report your American Indian or Alaska Native racial identity. Feedback is requested before March 31, 2018.

Specifically, we are interested in:

- (1) Whether you would like to add or modify the code terms for your tribe.
- (2) What are your thoughts about your tribal grouping? Is this convention useful?
  - a. If yes, how?
  - b. Among these tribal groupings, are there other tribes that you are formally affiliated with or should not be affiliated with?
- (3) Do your tribal citizens self-identify with your tribe using any geographical reference (e.g. the name of a village, town, city, etc.)?
- (4) Any additional feedback that you would like to provide regarding how the Census Bureau codes and tabulates data for your tribe.



There are three ways to submit your comments to us.

- 1) You can respond electronically by sending your comments via e-mail to [pop.race.ethnicity@census.gov](mailto:pop.race.ethnicity@census.gov), which is the preferred method since it will reach us immediately.
- 2) Via Fax (301) 763-6636. For your convenience, attached to this letter is the Fax Cover Sheet you may use to submit your comments.
- 3) Via postal mail to  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Racial Statistics Branch  
Office 6H171  
Washington, DC 20233

Email is the preferred method since all federal postal mail is irradiated and that process has been known to delay letters and packages from reaching us.

We look forward to your feedback to help us build useful data for all American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,

{INSERT NAME}