

Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee

February 26, 2025

Scott Bessent, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Melanie Krause, Acting IRS Commissioner

Edward Killen, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Commissioner

Sent via email

Re: Treasury Office of Tribal and Native Affairs and IRS Office of Indian Tribal Governments

Dear Secretary Bessent and Commissioners Krause and Killen:

The Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC) is deeply concerned about recent IRS employee terminations and potential Treasury reductions-in-force. We are particularly concerned these actions may impact the Office of Indian Tribal Governments (ITG) and Office of Tribal and Native Affairs (OTNA).

These offices are crucial to maintaining the government-to-government and trust relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations. We request that:

- The IRS reverse any terminations of ITG employees
- OTNA and ITG employees be exempted from future RIFs
- A meeting be scheduled with each of you as soon as possible

During President Trump's first term, Treasury established the Tribal Affairs Program (now OTNA), which has been vital in addressing Tribal economic development and reducing dependency on federal funding. Additionally, OTNA and ITG have been instrumental in implementing the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014 (IRC Section 139E).

The employees of these offices possess specialized knowledge that is difficult to replace and requires years of training. Following the precedent set when Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy rescinded terminations of Indian Health Service employees, we urge similar action to protect ITG staff.

We request meetings at your earliest opportunity between TTAC and the Secretary and IRS Commissioners to explain our advocacy for OTNA, for ITG staffing at current and increasing levels, our ongoing projects for regulatory guidance, and our shared priorities of economic development and prosperity for Tribal communities.

Sincerely on behalf of Treasury TTAC Committee,



TTAC Chair (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)

Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee Members:

Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

Will Micklin, Central Council of Tlingit Haida Tribes of Alaska

Cora White Horse, Oglala Sioux Tribe

Martin Tucker, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chief Allen, Coeur d' Alene Tribe of Idaho

Carla Keene, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians