

Unknown

From: Tibbles, Michael A (GOV) [/O=SOA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MATIBBLES]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2007 10:25 AM
To: Todd Palin
Subject: FW: Governors Palin's Letter 8(a) (2)

Attached is the suggested letter from Rick Harris. Thanks for taking a look and providing feedback.

Mike

From: Tibbles, Michael A (GOV)
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2007 4:11 PM
To: Katz, John W (GOV); mike_nizich@gov.state.ak.us
Subject: FW: Governors Palin's Letter 8(a) (2)

Please review the proposed letter from Rick Harris regarding 8(a). I would like to hear your thoughts on whether we should proceed and if so, any suggested changes. Thank you.

Mike Tibbles

From: Rick Harris [mailto:rick.harris@sealaska.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 4:04 PM
To: Tibbles, Michael A (GOV); jmackie@nwstrat.com
Cc: Simpson E Budd; Otte, Vicki; Rick Harris; Chris McNeil
Subject: Governors Palin's Letter 8(a) (2)

Mike:

I want to thank you for taking time to consider the attached letter and our request for Governor Palin send the letter before the Native American Contractors Association (NACA) Impact week scheduled for July 24th and 25th.

As you recall in my earlier email, the draft letter was being circulated among the Alaska Native Corporation CEO's group to for their comments. I have received notice from Vicki Otte, Executive Director of the Regional CEO's organization, that the group is ok with the letter. We are therefore asking for your timely consideration of this letter so that it can be delivered to the congressional leadership before the NACA event next week.

If you have any questions please give me or Vicki Otte a call. Thank you again for taking time to consider this request.

Rick Harris

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6/10/2009

July __, 2007

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The House Speaker
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Harry Reid
The Senate Democratic Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker and Majority Leader:

I understand that the 110th Congress has made government contracting reform one of its focal points and I wanted to make you aware of the importance of the Native 8(a) program to the Indian tribes and Native Corporations in my state. I urge you not to change a program that is working for Alaska. I would like to share with you some of my observations about the success of this program.

The 8(a) program overall is enabling Native Americans to make important gains in economic development and in the diversification of Native economies. Across the Nation we are seeing that participation in the federal contracting industry by community-based businesses owned by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (Native Enterprises) has proven to be an important catalyst to build strong Native communities.

I can attest to the success of the program for Alaska Tribes and Native Corporations. These Alaska Native entities have become important contributors to the economy and overall wellbeing of my state. They have shown measurable results in the creation of jobs, supporting programs that perpetuate Alaska's rich Native culture and Native languages and funding exceptional scholarship and internship programs that provide the foundation for building future Native cultural and business leaders.

Native communities and Natives in Alaska, much like other parts of the country, have had a history of being economically disadvantaged with limited opportunity to build strong economies and to become self-sufficient. Congress has passed many laws to fulfill the federal government's obligations to these communities. It had the foresight to recognize that providing the tools for business development would be more beneficial to these communities than simply appropriating funds for economic development assistance. Our Alaska tribes and Native Corporations have shown that when given the tools to build sustainable businesses, they in fact become self-sustaining.

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Native Enterprises overall have responsibilities that are specific and unique and are a perfect match with the intent and goals of the 8(a) program. Native Enterprises have a broad community role in providing for their tribal people. These entities are charged with the responsibility of combating historical disadvantage, the impacts of federal policies, rural isolation, and the stagnant economies that have resulted from a multi-generational lack of meaningful employment opportunity. The 8(a) program has enabled Alaska tribes and Native Corporations to advance the social, economic and cultural well being of our Alaska Native residents and in doing so also benefiting the entire state of Alaska.

As Governor, I know in a very real way the fiscal responsibilities of an elected representative, and how acquisition reform may be a necessary tool to combat waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. It does not make sense, however, to target reform of 8(a) program participants who make up such a small portion of procurement spending and who are still underrepresented in the contracting industry. I would only caution that the Congress, in its zeal to enact reform, not unintentionally jeopardize the 8(a) program and disproportionately impact Native communities. It has only been in recent years that many Native community-based enterprises have realized the successes envisioned in providing business development opportunities to Native peoples. Many disadvantaged Native communities, using the successes of other Native Enterprises as a model, are only now approaching the point where they can contribute to the improvement of their own people. It would do great harm to those communities in my state, as well as the economic well-being of many Native communities throughout the country, to curtail the 8(a) program.

In short, I request that you not support any legislation that would limit the ability of Native community-based enterprises to benefit from the 8(a) program.

Governor Sarah Palin

cc: Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
Alaska Delegation

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