



OCT 12 2001

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am enclosing the updated Indian Health Service (IHS) Tribal Consultation and Participation Policy that has been under consideration for an extended period of time. On December 20, 2000, this policy was sent to all tribal leaders and tribal organizations for review and comment. Responses, both written and verbal, were in support of the proposed policy; therefore, I have approved adoption of this policy for IHS effective on September 21, 2001.

The tribes and the agency have continuously refined the consultation process that has a direct, positive result on the important work we do together. While our IHS policy provides guidance and establishes the framework for conducting ourselves as an agency, it is only through effective communication and collaboration that we can assure equal partnership.

I look forward to continue working with you to achieve meaningful consultation at all levels within the IHS and attain our partnership goal.

Sincerely yours,

/Michael H. Trujillo/

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Director