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Ms. Karen G. Mills  
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U.S. Small Business Administration  
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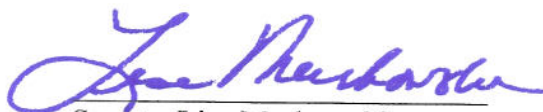
Dear Administrator Mills:

I appreciate the October 28, 2009, release of the proposed regulations for the 8(a) Business Development and Small Disadvantaged Business programs. I understand that several tribal consultations were held in the development of these proposed regulations; however, I am writing to urge the Small Business Administration to hold a public hearing in Alaska on the recently released proposed rules. I am also urging that you extend the comment period an additional 30 days to ensure that all those who would like to comment have the opportunity to do so.

As you may know, Alaska Native corporations created under the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement of 1971 have participated in the 8(a) business development program under contracting preferences afforded to federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Nearly half of the federally recognized tribes as well as over 200 Native corporations are located in Alaska and should be involved in the rule-making process.

Again, I appreciate your agency's willingness to reform the 8(a) Business Development and Small Disadvantaged Business programs in a meaningful manner with stakeholders involved and strongly encourage that a tribal and native corporation consultation session be held in Alaska and that the public comment period be extended an additional 30 days. Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,



Senator Lisa Murkowski