



the National Center

for American Indian Enterprise Development

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June 18, 2010

Dear Honorable Tribal Leaders of the Gulf Coast Region:

RE: Gulf Coast Region Oil Spill

As caretakers of the land and ocean tidewaters that surround the Gulf Coast area, I send my sincere regret that the oil spill situation is upon you and your Tribal homelands. The Gulf Coast region oil spill will go down in history as one of the largest ecological disasters ever experienced in the United States. Unfortunately, the oil spill most certainly has already impacted your communities negatively and will be your difficult task to manage now and for years to come. We share in your anguish and wish to offer resources for coordinating assistance through the arduous tasks ahead.

The BP oil spill presents a disaster of enormous proportions, and yet, a defining moment for our sovereign Tribal nations, the Gulf Coast region and the United States. The environmental devastation most certainly, will be experienced by Tribal nations in the Gulf region, and also for Tribal citizens that live and operate businesses in the area, for decades to come. Not only are the traditional coastal homelands of Tribal citizens being affected, but so are the distinctive cultural areas, wildlife migratory pathways, food chains, tourism, shipping, import/exports and water quality. Furthermore, the strain on local economies will continue to restrict access to capital for Tribal endeavors and Tribal citizens' business activities.

On June 14, 2010, the President of the United States laid out a leadership plan to address the BP oil spill crisis during his Oval Office address. President Obama negotiated a mandate for BP to deliver financial assistance directly to the Gulf area and into the hands of local authorities through the Gulf Coast Restoration Plan. As a defining moment for Tribal nations, President Obama expressly directed that "Tribes" will have access to this assistance. This progressive step recognizes the nation-to-nation respect for the sovereign responsibilities and rights of our Tribal nations. We applaud the President's response and appreciate his commitment toward Indian Country.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (The National Center) will take a lead role in assisting Tribal nations in two areas offering major opportunities for Tribes, their businesses and their members to access available assistance. *First*, through our American Indian Procurement Technical Assistance Center with offices located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and Marietta, Georgia, we will help in identifying and securing commercial and government contracting opportunities as they become available for clean-up and restoration of the regional economy. Such projects could range from water restoration to fisheries management to levee repairs and infrastructure development and efforts to stimulate and restore economic activity. The National Center will encourage the Federal government to increase the use of set aside dollars for Tribal businesses that qualify under many programs set up to benefit our citizens (8a, SDB, Buy Indian contracting).

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Second, we will help coordinate other private and federal program dollars as they become available for assistance to Tribes through existing Federal agreements (BIA 638, IHS AFA, HUD) and opportunities for competitive grants or other funding sources. In addition, we will continue our advocacy through our network in Washington, DC and Indian Country to ensure a pathway is developed to secure funding for our Tribal citizens, businesses and Tribal governments, respectively.

The National Center just completed our Strategic Planning and redefined our vision statement as: “Committed to American Indian Self-Sufficiency by Leading Economic Development and Promoting Commerce in Indian Country.” Through this commitment to Indian Country, we will continue to communicate opportunities as they arise, measure progress on future initiatives and provide advocacy at levels that our sovereign nations deserve. This is “your” National Center and we want to be responsive to your needs in the Gulf area. Communication is vital and we need to establish this dialogue immediately. For this project, your direct contact will be Ms. Maria Dadgar, Executive Vice President (480-280-6502 cell, maria.dadgar@ncaied.org). If you have any questions, comments or would like to collaborate with us in standing up our Gulf Coast Revitalization Project do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Miigwetch and baamaapii mine ke wabman.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric S Trevan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric S Trevan
President and Chief Executive Officer