



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 23 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

Almost five years ago, President Barack Obama signed into law the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA). This law was a tremendous step forward for tribal self-governance in the areas of law enforcement and criminal justice. In TLOA, Congress and the President acknowledged that tribal law enforcement officers are often the first responders to crimes on Indian reservations, and that tribal justice systems are often the most appropriate entities to maintain law and order in Indian Country. The TLOA recognized tribal authority to exercise felony jurisdiction under certain circumstances.

The TLOA also required better reporting of data. Section 211 (b)(16) of TLOA requires the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services to submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, for each fiscal year, a detailed spending report regarding tribal public safety and justice programs that includes:

(A) (i) the number of full-time employees of the Bureau and tribal governments who serve as—

- (I) criminal investigators;
- (II) uniform police;
- (III) police and emergency dispatchers;
- (IV) detention officers;
- (V) executive personnel, including special agents in charge, and directors and deputies of various offices in the Office of Justice Services; and
- (VI) tribal court judges, prosecutors, public defenders, appointed defense counsel, or related staff; and

(ii) the amount of appropriations obligated for each category described in clause for each fiscal year;

(B) a list of amounts dedicated to law enforcement and corrections, vehicles, related transportation costs, equipment, inmate transportation costs, inmate transfer costs, replacement, improvement, and repair of facilities, personnel transfers, detailees and costs related to their details, emergency events, public safety and justice communications and technology costs, and tribal court personnel, facilities, indigent defense, and related program costs; and

(C) a list of the unmet staffing needs of law enforcement, corrections, and court personnel (including indigent defense and prosecution staff) at tribal and Bureau

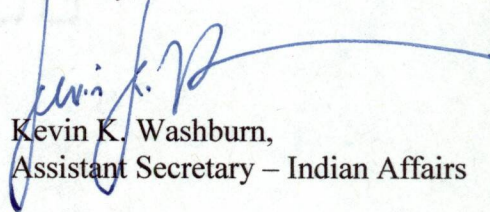
of Indian Affairs justice agencies, the replacement and repair needs of tribal and Bureau corrections facilities, needs for tribal police and court facilities, and public safety and emergency communications and technology needs.

We cannot provide this data without your help. Therefore, pursuant to TLOA, we request your assistance in providing the above information for **Fiscal Year 2013**, by completing a questionnaire on BIA's Office of Justice Services website: <http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/text/idc1-029500.xlsx>. The questionnaire is in the form of an Excel spreadsheet that should be downloaded, completed with responses, and emailed to: ojs_tloa_report@bia.gov. In order to ensure timely data consolidation and report preparation, we ask that your completed questionnaires be emailed no later than **May 31, 2015**.

We know that the preparation of public safety data is time-consuming and uses precious staff time that could be used more directly for public safety purposes, but we cannot do this without your help. We are asking for this data from you not just because Congress required it, but also because it helps us, and Congress, to serve you better. Data is crucial for us to justify funding levels and to demonstrate what is working in Indian country (and what may not be working).

Indian Country deserves to have its data considered by policy makers when they are making appropriations and other important decisions. We thank you very much for your time and participation in this effort as we work to improve Indian Country.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn,
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs