

USET SPF Alert: President Biden Issues Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships January 27, 2021

Dear USET SPF Membership,

On January 26, 2021, President Biden issued a [Memorandum](#) [link] for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on, “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships”. This memorandum reaffirms the Administration’s commitment to the November 6, 2000 [Executive Order 13175](#) [link], “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” (E.O 13175), and the November 5, 2009 [Presidential Memorandum](#) [link] requiring federal agencies to prepare and periodically update plans to implement E.O. 13175.

President Biden’s Memorandum directs the head of each agency to submit within 90 days to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a detailed plan of actions they will take to implement the directives of E.O. 13175. These plans shall be developed through consultation between federal agencies and Tribal Nations and officials as defined in E.O. 13175. Each agency’s plan must designate an agency official to coordinate implementation of the plan and the preparation of progress reports submitted to the Director of OMB and to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (APDP) for review. The head of each agency will also be required to submit annual reviews of their E.O. 13175 implementation plan along with any proposed updates to such plans.

USET SPF is encouraged by the reaffirmation of the principles and directives of E.O. 13175 and looks forward to working with the Administration to make further advancements in and improvements to Tribal consultation, including moving toward a consent-based model. We note that this Executive Action has been taken as a part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to racial justice and equity. USET SPF has also [called for racial justice](#) [link], amid the reckoning across the country, and we strongly support this focus. However, it is critically important to underscore that the political status of Tribal Nations and the federal trust obligation make Indian Country unique and distinguish us from all other populations in the United States. USET SPF also looks forward to collaborating with the Administration in underscoring and supporting these distinctions.

Thank You,

Brian Howard
~Akimel O’odham - Citizen of the Gila River Indian Community
Senior Policy Analyst
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)