

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Mr. Kirk Francis  
President  
Mr. Kitcki Carroll  
Executive Director  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
400 North Capitol Street, Ste. 585  
Washington, DC 20001

OCT 17 2017

Dear Mr. Francis and Mr. Carroll:

Thank you for your letter requesting tribal consultation regarding Maine's section 1115 demonstration project application. We appreciate you sharing your concerns with us.

We understand you are concerned about the lack of meaningful tribal consultation between the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund and the state. We also acknowledge your concern that, unless certain exceptions are made for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) residing in Maine, the proposed demonstration would be inconsistent with existing federal legal protections for AI/ANs.

As you noted in your letter, tribal governments have a unique political relationship with the federal government. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to maintaining a government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes, as acknowledged in the CMS Tribal Consultation Policy.

Please know that CMS is committed to increasing access to care, eliminating health disparities experienced by American Indians in Maine and honoring the government-to-government relationship through tribal consultation. We will work with you to schedule tribal consultation and to discuss the issues raised in your letter.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns. If you or your staff have questions, please feel free to contact Kitty Marx, Director, Division of Tribal Affairs, at [kitty.marx@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:kitty.marx@cms.hhs.gov) or 410-786-8619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brian Neale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Neale  
Director