

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2024

The Hon. Cheryl Andrews-Maltais
Chairwoman
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah
20 Black Brook Rd.
Aquinnah, MA

Dear Chairwoman Andrews-Maltais:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs oversight hearing on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 to present testimony on "*Advancing Tribal Self-Determination: Examining Bureau of Indian Affairs' 638 Contracting.*"

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Ransom Fox, Clerk of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, at ransom.fox@mail.house.gov by March 25, 2024. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
Chair

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
Oversight Hearing
1334 Longworth House Office Building
March 06, 2024
2:15 PM

- *“Advancing Tribal Self-Determination: Examining Bureau of Indian Affairs’ 638 Contracting”*

Questions from Rep. Westerman for Hon. Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

1. In your testimony, you mentioned the importance of flexibility given to tribes participating in a self-governance compact.
 - a. Could you further expand on your tribe’s experiences with this level of flexibility and autonomy and how it has overall improved tribal members experience with programs?
2. Several witness statements mentioned the Department of the Interior’s lack of timeliness to distribute program funds under self-governance compacts.
 - a. Could you further elaborate on how this delay directly impacts tribes?
 - b. Could you further elaborate on how any funding delays have specifically impacted your tribe’s self-governance programs?
3. Where could Congress legislate regarding the 638 compacting process that would improve the 638 negotiations?
 - a. And what regulatory changes, if any, would you suggest to the Department of the Interior to improve the 638 compact negotiation process?
4. Has the issue of inherent federal functions impacted what programs and/or functions your tribe was able to include in your 638 compact?
 - a. If yes, what was the function and/or program that was deemed an inherently federal function?
 - b. And are you aware of any other tribes that were able to compact that function and/or program?