



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

September 22, 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

On January 16, 2015, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13688, "Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition" (EO), to identify actions that can improve federal support for the appropriate use, acquisition, and transfer of controlled equipment by State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The EO established a Federal Interagency Law Enforcement Equipment Working Group, which engaged with stakeholders and deliberated to develop the recommendations, which were delivered to the President in May of 2015.

The recommendation report outlined five major areas related to the provision of controlled equipment through federal grant and transfer programs. These recommendations are intended to also apply to Tribal LEAs that acquire controlled equipment through Federal resources. As noted in the report, before the recommendations are implemented with respect to Tribal LEAs, the Federal Working Group will ensure that specific requirements triggered by potential changes to Federal programs affecting sovereign tribes, including appropriate Tribal consultation, are met.

The Federal Working Group invites you to consult about the scope and specifics of the recommendations noted in the report on Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition. The attached framing paper provides additional background on the working group, a summary of the recommendations, and a list of stakeholders engaged by the Working Group.

The tribal consultation will be conducted at the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Royal Palm Six Room at Town and Country Resort Hotel**, San Diego, CA. In addition, the Working Group will accept written comments. Written comments can be submitted until the close of business on **Monday, November 23, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time** at LawEnfEquipment@usdoj.gov or (if necessary) via regular mail to:

Law Enforcement Equipment Permanent Working Group
810 Seventh Street NW
ATTN: Tracey Trautman
Washington, DC 20531

The Working Group will also conduct a listening session with Tribal leaders and Law Enforcement Agencies at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference, Indian Country Law Enforcement Section (ICLES) annual meeting on **Sunday, October 25, 2015, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, W175BC in the Chicago McCormick Place West Convention Center**, Chicago, IL.

If you have any questions about the consultation or listening session if you have trouble submitting comments, please contact Tracey Trautman at Tracey.Trautman@usdoj.gov. The Working Group documents are posted and can be found at <https://www.bja.gov/>.

I hope you will be able to participate in this important government-to-government consultation and listening session with us, and our Working Group looks forward to working with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Karol V. Mason
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs
Executive Director, Law Enforcement
Equipment Working Group