

# InterTribal Bison Cooperative

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May 27, 2009

Mr. Jerry Gidner, Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1849 C. Street, N.W.  
MS-3070-MIB  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: InterTribal Bison Cooperative Federal Charter

Dear Mr. Gidner:

Attached to this correspondence is the final draft of the InterTribal Bison Cooperative's Charter of Incorporation to become a federally chartered corporation under 25 U.S.C. Section 477, as amended. Additionally, Tribal Council resolutions from the Picuris Pueblo of New Mexico, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe, both of South Dakota, as sponsoring Tribes, are attached to this transmittal correspondence.

As we have previously discussed, the InterTribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) submits this Charter of Incorporation to reorganize itself under federal law as an Indian business corporation and dissolve its current state law corporation. The 55 federally recognized Indian Tribes that comprise the ITBC have unanimously consented to reorganization as a federally chartered corporation. ITBC members desire the federal charter as all members are Indian Tribes and the objective of the organization is to restore buffalo to Indian Country. Further, ITBC's purpose is to assist Tribes with maintaining buffalo for cultural and spiritual purposes as well as to support those Tribes that manage buffalo as viable economic development efforts. ITBC prefers to pursue these objectives as a federally chartered Indian organization rather than as a State corporation.

The Charter of Incorporation provides that the sponsoring Tribes shall serve as Charter Tribes, or sponsoring Tribes, for the new InterTribal Buffalo Council and the Federal Charter will actually be issued to the sponsoring Tribes. However, aside from serving as charter tribes, the sponsoring tribes will have no additional benefits over member Tribes except for the opportunity to request dissolution of the federally chartered corporation.

The Charter of Incorporation includes legal authority for the Charter, corporate purposes, express powers and limitations on powers. The Charter of Incorporation also provides a detailed organizational structure for the InterTribal Buffalo Council to determine membership to the organization, elect Board members, and conduct corporation business.

The final draft of the Charter of Incorporation did not change from the draft delivered to your office for review last January except for the listing of the sponsoring Tribes. As ITBC is eager to dissolve its state corporation and move forward as a federally chartered Indian organization, we are hopeful the Certificate of Approval will be forthcoming within the prescribed timeframe of 45 days from the official filing. However, ITBC is most willing to consider and accommodate any revisions to the Charter that do not alter the overall intent and structure of proposed federally chartered corporation.

Please contact myself, Jim Stone, Executive Director or Majel Russell, Legal Counsel, at 605-394-9730 with any questions.

Respectfully,

  
Ervin Carlson, ITBC President

## • Member Tribes •

- Blackfeet • Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of OK • Cheyenne River Sioux • Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's Reservation • Cochiti Pueblo • Comanche Tribe of OK • Confederated Salish & Kootenai • Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla • Crow • Crow Creek Sioux • Iowa Tribe of OK • Flandreau Santee Sioux • Fort Peck Tribes • Fort Belknap Gros Ventre & Assiniboine • Ho-Chunk Nation • Jicarilla Apache • Kalispel • Lower Brule Sioux • Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians • Miami Tribe of OK • Modoc of OK • Nambé' Pueblo • Nez Perce • Northern Arapaho • Northern Cheyenne • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Omaha Tribe of NE • Oneida Nation of WI • Picuris Pueblo • Pojoaque Pueblo • Ponca of NE • Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation • Prairie Island Dakota • Rosebud Sioux • Round Valley Tribes • Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community • San Juan Pueblo • Sandia Pueblo • Santee Sioux of NE • Seneca Cayuga Tribe of OK • Shawnee • Shoshone-Bannock • Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate • Southern Ute • Spirit Lake Sioux • Spokane • Standing Rock Sioux • Stevens Village IRA Council, AK • Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians • Taos Pueblo • Tesuque Pueblo • Three Affiliated Tribes • Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa • Ute • Winnebago of NE • Yakama Nation • Yankton Sioux •