



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



APR 28 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I consider my tenure as Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs a great honor and opportunity to serve you, the President, and American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, I have sent a letter to the President asking that he accept my resignation as Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs. My last day will be May 23, 2008.

I am proud of the many accomplishments achieved by Indian Affairs during my tenure. This includes drastic improvements in the 25 C.F.R. 151 fee to trust process that have substantially expedited processing and decreased backlogs of pending applications. This will contribute to a stable foundation for tribal sovereignty and economic development. I launched the Indian Affairs Modernization Initiative to catalyze communications between tribes and the Department on priority issues in Indian Country. The Initiative will continue to grow and be a platform for parties to create lasting and effective solutions with multi-lateral input. Following your leadership, we increased the depth and delivery of law enforcement to Indian Country by recruiting, training, and equipping more officers to serve on the reservations. Our Indian officers have now a special focus on eradicating methamphetamines on tribal lands, an epidemic that threatens to eliminate generations of Native Americans. Finally, fiscal year 2007 marked the first year Indian Affairs had no material weaknesses on its annual audit.

I believe at the end of this Administration, the work we have done within Indian Affairs will leave not just a legacy, but an infrastructure upon which American Indian and Alaska Natives can build to secure their governmental, cultural and economic futures. Mr. Secretary, thank you for this opportunity, your support, and your leadership. It has been a great pleasure to work for you and with you.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Artman  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs