



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

We:sij T-we:m

ALL OF US TOGETHER

NED NORRIS JR.

CHAIRMAN

ISIDRO LOPEZ

VICE CHAIRMAN

UPDATE ON THE JUNE 1, 2009 WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

O'odham Members Will Be Allowed to Continue to Use Tribal ID's to Reenter Into the United States After June 1, 2009

On June 1, 2009 the United States Government will be implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, or what is commonly known as WHTI. Under this Initiative, all U.S. citizens crossing the border will be required to possess approved identification, such as a passport, a passport card, or other approved WHTI identification.

Currently Tohono O'odham members are able to reenter into the United States using their Tribal identification cards. Tohono O'odham members WILL BE ALLOWED to continue to use their Tribal identification cards after June 1 and for the foreseeable future.

The reason for this is Tohono O'odham leaders have been working closely with the Department of Homeland Security on a government-to-government agreement that will ensure creation of a new tribal ID card that meets the WHTI requirements.

Until this agreement is completed, all O'odham members should continue to use their Tribal identification cards for reentry into the United States. This information is outlined in a May 20th letter from the Department of Homeland Security. If anyone would like a copy of this letter please contact either your District office or the Executive office.

It is also important to note that the new Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirements only apply to Tohono O'odham citizens in the United States.

We will continue to provide updates on this issue as new information becomes available. For additional information or questions, please contact Brenda Cruz in the Executive Office at 383-2028. Thank you.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT





Homeland
Security

May 20, 2009

Chairman Ned Norris
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

Dear Chairman Norris:

As you are aware, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will implement the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), established to meet the mandate of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, on Monday, June 1, 2009. On that day, travelers will be required to present a passport or other approved secure document denoting citizenship and identity for all land and sea travel into the United States.

Over the course of the past year, DHS has been in discussions with Native American tribes, including the Tohono O'odham, who are interested in producing a tribal document that will meet WHTI requirements for entry into the United States through land and sea ports. It is imperative that these discussions continue and move forward. The opportunity for tribes to develop their own Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETC) would improve the security of all documents presented at the U.S. border and facilitate entry and compliance with WHTI.

Currently, the Indian and North Affairs Canada Card (INAC) and Tribal Enrollment Cards with a photo affixed to the card are accepted for entry into the United States. The Department realizes that there are U.S. Native Americans who still only have their photo-ID tribal cards and are in the process of obtaining WHTI compliant documents or anticipate obtaining an ETC. Further, DHS understands the concerns raised by Native Americans regarding the effective date and the perception that current tribal cards will not continue to be accepted. We want to assure you that the Department will be practical and flexible in implementing WHTI on June 1, 2009, as U.S. and Canadian citizens who do not have WHTI compliant documents are processed. This guidance has been communicated to our CBP officers through an extensive training program leading up to WHTI implementation and will continue to be emphasized during the transition period. As such, the current practice of accepting photo identification tribal cards will continue for a modest, but reasonable transition period. At some point, DHS will close this transition period, but we will notify you when that will occur.

DHS values the relationship it has with the Native American community and wants to continue the dialogue with you as we work towards establishing WHTI compliant tribal documents. We

appreciate your interest in partnering with us in securing the homeland while at the same time facilitating travel for your tribal members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juliette Kayyem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Juliette Kayyem
Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Programs



Homeland
Security

May 15, 2009

Heather Dawn Thompson
Director of Government Affairs
National Congress of American Indians
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Director Thompson:

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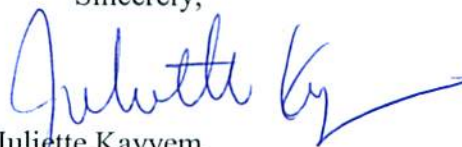
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Juliette Kayyem
Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Programs