



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

January 17, 2025

Anthony Christianson, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Chairman Christianson:

Thank you for your letter dated July 29, 2024, regarding communications of the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) and the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Councils). Secretary Haaland and Secretary Vilsack asked me to respond on their behalf. They would like to express their appreciation for your patience in awaiting our joint reply.

We understand the frustration conveyed in your letter that while the Board and Councils ensure that they elevate issues and concerns to the Secretaries in a timely manner, they do not always receive timely responses in return. We also appreciate receiving the supporting letters from the Councils further describing their frustrations and suggesting protocols for improving communications.

The majority of correspondence-related work falls within the purview of the Department of the Interior's Office of Policy, Management and Budget and the Office of Subsistence Management. The staff have been working diligently to improve protocols and processes that will help facilitate communications in the future. We are also focused on better coordination between the Secretary of Agriculture's Office and the Forest Service to expedite review and response to issues raised by the Councils and the Board.

The Office of Subsistence Management is streamlining processes for drafting, transmitting, and responding to Board and Council correspondence. The Office of Subsistence Management and the Interagency Staff Committee are developing an improved system for tracking and transmitting Council correspondence that requests elevation by the Board in an effort to also expedite the correspondence elevation process. The Board is now including Council correspondence as an agenda item at each of its meetings to ensure members are aware of issues raised by the Councils through correspondence and to provide an opportunity for the Board to discuss such issues with Council Chairs during Board meetings.

I assure you the Office of Subsistence Management and Interagency Staff Committee will continue efforts to improve communications processes throughout the remainder of the Biden-

Harris Administration and I have confidence this focus will continue. I know we all look forward to the federal subsistence management program benefiting from improved communications processes.

We sincerely appreciate your time and expertise in bringing this important matter to our attention. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti, Director, Office of Subsistence Management, at crystal_leonetti@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

**JOAN
MOONEY**

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Joan M. Mooney
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Exercising the Delegated Authority of Assistant
Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget

cc: Secretary of Agriculture
Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Office of Subsistence Management
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council