



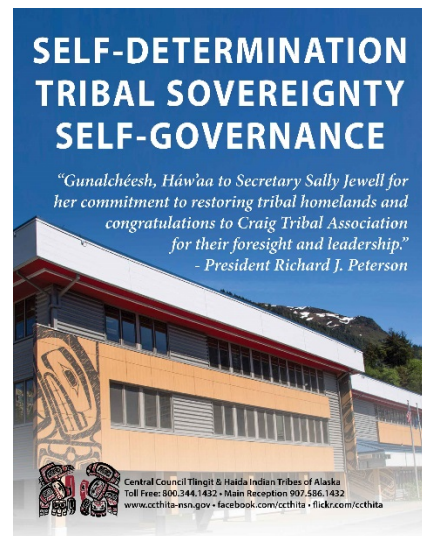
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Interior Approves Craig Tribal Association's Land-into-Trust Application

Juneau, AK (January 13, 2017) – The Department of Interior (DOI) announced today that it has approved Craig Tribal Association's (CTA) land-into-trust application to place a 1.08-acre land parcel into federal Indian trust status. This is the first application from Alaska to be approved by DOI since it issued a final revised rule in 2014 expelling the misguided "Alaska exception" that had unfairly excluded Alaska tribes from the fee to trust process. Under federal Indian trust status, CTA's land parcel, cannot be sold, alienated, or transferred without federal approval. CTA's parcel is home to its tribal government offices, a town hall, and commercially leased office space.



Statement from CTA President Clinton Cook: *Today is a historic day for the Craig Tribal Association and all Alaska tribes. This morning the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Lawrence Roberts, approved our Tribe's application to take approximately 1.08 acres of land into trust for our Tribe. This land, which is located within our traditional homelands, is the center of our government. Alaska tribes have been unfairly left out of the fee to trust process for decades. This decision not only reflects a firm commitment by the United States to move forward in treating Alaska tribes like those in the lower 48 by providing us the same opportunities to exercise tribal self-determination; but recognizes the importance of rebuilding and restoring tribal homelands. Today's decision ensures that our tribe will have a permanent center for our tribal government and provides economic development opportunities for our*

children and grandchildren. Our tribe sincerely appreciates the comments that were submitted by both the State of Alaska and the City of Craig, neither of which opposed the tribe's application, and looks forward to continuing to work together and build strong partnerships. We commend Assistant Secretary Roberts for all of the hard work that led to his decision to approve our application. We also thank Secretary Jewell for her unwavering commitment to Indian country and supporting the restoration of tribal homelands.

The ability for Alaska tribes to petition for trust land acquisitions maximizes tribal government resources, eligibility for federal programs and services, and fosters economic development. It will help address public safety and child welfare issues, protect historic homelands and cultural sites, and expand funding for services, education, and housing – above all else it is about Alaska tribes exercising their inherent sovereignty and self-determination.

“*Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa* to Secretary Sally Jewell for her commitment to restoring tribal homelands and congratulations to Craig Tribal Association for their foresight and leadership,” said President Richard Peterson. “With the Alaska exception removed, we finally have new Indian Country in Alaska – this is great progress for all Alaska tribes. I look forward to working with President Clinton Cook and the Craig Tribal Council as we continue to advance tribal interest.”

Central Council has submitted fee-to-trust and reservation proclamation applications for property Central Council holds in fee or federally restricted status. All parcels are located within the historical and cultural area long known as the “Juneau Indian Village”. Central Council’s parcels are home to the Andrew Hope Building and its surrounding parking lots.

Under the Obama Administration, the BIA has processed more than 2,265 individual trust applications and restored more than 570,799 acres of land into trust status since 2009.

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