



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Tobacco Products  
9200 Corporate Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3229

April 25, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is working to prevent and reduce tobacco use and its harms throughout the United States. You and your Tribal Nation can participate in these efforts.

FDA is an agency that protects public health by regulating human and veterinary drugs, medical devices, foods, dietary supplements, and cosmetics, among other things. As part of the commitment to protect public health, on June 22, 2009, President Obama signed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) into law granting the FDA important new authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products to protect the public health generally and to reduce tobacco product use by children and adolescents. Among its many provisions, the Tobacco Control Act establishes federal age restrictions for the sale of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products and places restrictions on cigarette and smokeless tobacco marketing to curb the appeal of these products to minors. FDA's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) oversees the implementation of the Tobacco Control Act.

CTP is commencing an effort to open a dialogue with federally recognized Tribes. We value the government-to-government relationship and look forward to working with you in minimizing youth tobacco use. We understand the importance of collaboration and consultation, as appropriate, with Tribal governments on the implementation of the Tobacco Control Act and related regulations.

As an introductory step in this effort, CTP is working with Native American-owned Keres Consulting, Inc. to identify Tribes with tobacco retailers and manufacturers located within their Tribal jurisdiction. CTP plans to reach out to Tribes and provide information about the Tobacco Control Act and related CTP activities.

Smoking and other tobacco use among both adults and children is a major concern for many Tribes. CTP has already taken several important steps toward preventing tobacco use by children. Our vision at CTP is to make tobacco-related death and disease part of America's past, not America's future and by doing so, ensure a healthier life for every family. We understand and appreciate that many Tribal governments have also been working actively to reduce tobacco use within their Tribes and to prevent smoking and other tobacco use among Tribal youth.

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts](http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts) to obtain more information about the Tobacco Control Act, related regulations, guidance documents, and CTP activities. The website offers a range of ways to keep informed of CTP's efforts, including the opportunity to sign up to receive "This Week in CTP," our weekly email updates; signing up for

other periodic email updates on specific CTP activities and topics, such as those especially relevant to tobacco product retailers, manufacturers or consumers; or by linking to CTP updates on your own website. Signing up for these email updates will ensure that you hear about CTP’s public education activities and how you might participate in those efforts. The email updates will also provide information about periodic CTP webinars, public meetings, and other events that Tribal members might want to attend.

We encourage open and direct communication with all CTP stakeholders, including Tribal governments and tobacco product businesses located on Tribal lands. CTP is interested in better understanding the various uses of tobacco in Tribal cultures, including the spiritual, cultural or ceremonial use of tobacco. We are available to answer questions, provide feedback, and engage discussion. Please do not hesitate to contact either of the individuals listed below.

Contact for general questions and comments:	Contact for questions about requirements for tobacco product manufacturers, distributors, and retailers under the Tobacco Control Act and potential compliance contracts:
Gail Cherry-Peppers, DDS, MS Center for Tobacco Products U.S. Food & Drug Administration 9200 Corporate Blvd., Room 110H Rockville, Maryland 20850 Phone: (301) 796-7379 <a href="mailto:Gail.Cherry-Peppers@fda.hhs.gov">Gail.Cherry-Peppers@fda.hhs.gov</a>	Heather Althouse Center for Tobacco Products U.S. Food & Drug Administration 9200 Corporate Blvd., Room 250D Rockville, Maryland 20850 Phone: (301) 796-9294 <a href="mailto:Heather.althouse@fda.hhs.gov">Heather.althouse@fda.hhs.gov</a>

We very much value your participation in efforts to protect the public’s health.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Zeller  
Director, Center for Tobacco Products

Enclosure:  
Consumer Fact Sheet – Overview of the Center for Tobacco Products