

Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee

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August 27, 2010

Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, M.P.H., M.D.
Director, Indian Health Service
Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852-1627

Dear Dr. Roubideaux:

On behalf of the 43 Tribes in the Portland Area, the Portland Area Facilities Advisory Committee (PAFAC) is writing to follow up on our December 14, 2009 letter. In our letter we explained that a Pilot Study completed by the Portland Area determined that regional referral specialty care centers are viable options for the Indian health system to improve access to care.

As we expressed during our November 4th meeting and subsequent follow-up letter, we feel the best way to validate the concept's viability is through the collection of actual data. The Tribes of the Portland Area continue to feel strongly that regional specialty referral centers have a place in the IHS healthcare delivery system and should continue to be explored by IHS Headquarters. We feel that our concept is consistent with your priority to bring reform to the IHS by demonstrating a willingness to change and improve the manner in which the Agency addresses health facilities construction projects. We feel this project represents an innovative approach to improve the delivery of direct care services to Tribes who currently rely on Contract Health Services (CHS) or who must go without health care altogether.

We are aware that there could be opportunities to access unobligated ARRA or other sources of funding both within IHS and with other federal agencies. We want to underscore the importance of the funding request outlined in our December 14th letter. We are hopeful that you will be a strong advocate to support our request, and if the opportunity should present itself to access initial funding of \$300,000 to start the first phase of developing a Program of Requirements (POR), the governance structure and a solid business plan for the proposed facility.

Thank you for consideration of our request!

Respectfully,

Andrew Joseph, Jr.,
Chairman, Portland Area Facilities

cc: Mr. Rich Truitt, Director, OEHE
Ms. Doni Wilder, Director, PAIHS
PAFAC members (see letterhead).