



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TO: All Census Bureau Employees

FROM: Robert M. Groves  
Director

SUBJECT: American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Policy Statement

In preparation for the 2010 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau signed its first formal American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Policy Statement in October 2008. Today, I am proud to formally reaffirm that policy. By my action, the Census Bureau recognizes our federal trust responsibility and the government-to-government relationship that exists between the 563 federally recognized AIAN tribal governments. This relationship is based on the United States Constitution, federal treaties, policy, law, court decisions, executive orders, and the on-going political relationship among tribal nations and the federal government.

The Census Bureau's AIAN Policy Statement outlines nine principles that provide general guidelines to Census Bureau employees for actions dealing with AIAN governments and satisfies a long-standing request from tribal leaders. The Census Bureau believes the policy will encourage and facilitate greater cooperation from the AIAN population in our work to count and collect data for our decennial censuses, surveys, and geography programs.

Today is an important day in our continued partnership with tribal nations. As the Census Bureau prepares for the 2010 Census, we understand the challenges in counting this population. We look for continued support and collaboration from tribal nations in helping us achieve an accurate count for all of the AIAN population living both on and off tribal lands. Please share in my enthusiasm for our continued partnerships with tribal governments to provide accurate demographic and economic data on the AIAN populations and their businesses.

Attachment

10/12/09  
Date

Robert M. Groves  
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Director  
U.S. Census Bureau