



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MAY 08 2020

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Udall,

This is in response to your letter of April 27, 2020, in which you request a review into the release of tribal application documents associated with the \$8 billion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Tribal set-aside funding. You also asked us to determine whether a U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) official involved in the Department's consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury adhered to governing ethics rules and regulations.

In late April, my office initiated an investigation into allegations that DOI improperly released sensitive data from tribal governments' CARES Act applications. We will coordinate this investigation with the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

We are also reviewing the actions of Department officials to determine whether there was adherence to ethics rules and regulations and compliance with the ethics pledge as it relates to CARES Act funding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202-208-5745, or your staff may contact Nancy DiPaolo, Director, External Affairs at 202-208-4357.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Lee Greenblatt  
Inspector General