

WHAT IS THE NATIVE 8(A) PROGRAM?

Federal Native Economic/Business Development Programs

Native 8(a): A Successful Example of Federal Indian Policy

The Native 8(a) Program operates in tandem with the Small Business Administration 8(a) Business Development Program. Firms in the Native 8(a) Program are **owned by entire Native communities**, and through participation in the program,

they are able to grow into successful viable entities that can compete in the United States business economy, and in doing so, are able to **provide invaluable benefits to the Native communities** these companies serve. The program **recognizes the federal trust**

responsibility of the United States, which is to promote the economic well-being of Native Americans. Participation in the program further **recognizes that the program must operate in a way to meet the needs of large Native communities.**



THE INDIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Indian Incentive Program (IIP) allows Department of Defense (DoD) prime contractors to receive a five percent (5%) rebate on contracts that are awarded to subcontractors owned by Native Americans.

According to DoD, "Despite recent upward trends in economic activity, Indian reservations and Alaska Native Villages still suffer some of the worst poverty in the country. In an effort to boost Native American economic development, Congress has authorized Federal contracting agencies to "encourage" the use of Native American owned subcontractors. The Department of Defense (DoD) Indian Incentive Program (IIP) is a viable example of this encouragement."

REQUEST

IIP has been funded at \$15 million through the Department of Defense Appropriation Act since 2008, illustrating Congress' recognition of the value of such appropriations. IIP should be supported and funded at \$15 million, because it is proven to provide a large return on a modest investment.

THE BUY INDIAN ACT

The Buy Indian Act provides the Department of Indian Affairs with authority to set aside procurement contracts for Indian-owned and controlled businesses. The Buy Indian Act is also the oldest procurement preference and ensures that agencies with primary jurisdiction are utilizing Indian business.

The publication of the final rule to implement the Buy Indian Act came as a win-win for both Indian Affairs and the American Indian and Alaska Native business community. The Buy Indian Act helps increase economic activity in tribal communities and provides greater employment opportunities where these businesses are located.

REQUEST

Support the Buy Indian Act being expanded government-wide.