

Alaska Sitka Tribe Visit

Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

October 17, 2022

- Good afternoon, everyone.
- We'd like to thank to the Sitka Tribe for this wonderful opportunity to be with you, especially:
 - Chairman Lawrence Widmark;
 - Transportation Director Gerry Hope;
 - Deputy General Manager Anne Davis; and the
 - Community Development Committee.
- We very much appreciate being with you in person today.
- We're eager to hear all you have to say about your experiences with the 2020 Census, with the American Community Survey, and with your uses of these, and all, Census Bureau data.
- We seek your help on our 2020 American Indian and Alaska Native data products to make them more useful and relevant to your community's needs.
- We believe it's critical for us to have a continuing dialogue with the Sitka Tribe so that we can learn how to better serve you.
- You see, these types of sessions are very important to us.
- We cannot understand unless we reach out to each other and speak honestly about what is working, what needs to be improved, and what's missing.
- We don't know what we don't know.
- That's why we're here....We're here to listen, to understand, to clarify, and to form a stronger, continuous nation-to-nation relationship with the Sitka Tribe, and with all tribes.
- Now I'd like to turn to a specific, time-dependent opportunity for input.
- We're in the early stages of planning the 2030 Census.
- Your input is critical.
- There is a Federal Register Notice that we posted on August 17 that seeks public input on planning and research for the next decennial census in 2030.
- This is the first time we have ever sought such input.
- We opened this line of communication because we realized we become more successful and can provide better data to you when you actively participate in our planning.
- That is what this Federal Register Notice is about.
- Now, we have staff here today that can help provide you more information about this chance to help design the next census.
- Your input can help inform our design, our research, and our testing.
- With ideas from the tribes and other communities across America, we specifically seek to better reach and count historically undercounted people.
- And we know we cannot do that without your help and your participation.

- It's very important to receive your input early in the decade and to hear from as many people and communities as possible.
- And now is the best and most impactful time to hear from you.
- The deadline for input on the 2030 Census planning is November 15.
- We're confident that by working together, we can better serve the needs of the Alaska Native population.
- Please understand that we welcome future invitations and opportunities to talk with you about how to better serve your communities.
- Once again, thank you so much for having me.
- We appreciate your support and look forward to our conversations.
- We look forward to a continued partnership with you and all our tribal partners.