December 16, 2016

Marcella L. Teters, Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 1101
Everett, WA  98201-3528

Re: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Samish Indian Nation

Dear Ms. Teters:

The City of Anacortes is aware of a number of issues that are emerging regarding disputed claims of jurisdiction and reservation boundaries, particularly between the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Samish Indian Nation. The City of Anacortes is particularly mindful of the trust obligation of the United States to both of the Tribes.

The City of Anacortes did not receive notice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s fee-to-trust application for parcel no. P19843. Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Chair Brian Cladoosby will meet with the Anacortes City Council on Monday evening, December 19, 2016. The City may submit comments with respect to the application and other matters. However, as a result of not receiving notice, and to provide for government to government consultation and review of the multiple issues currently emerging in this area, the City will submit its comments after December 19, 2016.

The City of Anacortes appreciates your recognition that the City of Anacortes may be delayed in submitting its comments, and the consideration of those comments in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor Laurie Gere
City of Anacortes

cc: Samish Indian Nation
    Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
    Suak-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Lawrence Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Stanley Speaks, Regional Office Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
James DeBergh, Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior
Jesse Young, Office of the Regional Solicitor, Department of the Interior
Skagit County
Anacortes School District
Skagit County Fire District
Shell Puget Sourd Refinery
Tesoro Anacortes