

**Access to Tribal Law Project
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Support Committee Members**
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March 25, 2011

"The sovereignty of Native nations depends upon reliable access to information by, for, and about tribal interests."

– Duane Champagne, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Dear Tribal Leader:

Greetings. We invite your Tribe or Nation to participate in a project of great importance to Indian Country. We, at the Native American Rights Fund's National Indian Law Library, are gathering and publishing online tribal codes and constitutions so as to provide tribes with easier access to their own and other tribes' laws. This project is called the "Access to Tribal Law Project." There are several valuable benefits to publicly publishing tribal law including:

- Promoting tribal sovereignty and affirming to the world that American Indian and Alaska Native tribes are strong, independent and self-governing nations
- Encouraging tribal economic development as non-Indian businesses will be able to read the tribal law that will govern their transactions
- Allowing tribal court judges to look at other tribes' laws for guidance when their own tribe's law is silent—rather than looking to state or federal law
- Having your tribe's law in digitized format that makes for easy updating as it is amended in the future

More than 230 tribes have already joined the Access to Tribal Law Project. It will cost your Tribe nothing. In return for sharing your code and/or constitution, we will do all the work needed to digitize it into a useful searchable format and add it to our website. If you are willing to allow your Nation to be part of this growing and successful national tribal law project, please send us, either in computer file format or on paper, a copy of your codes and constitution to jbryant@narf.org or to:

National Indian Law Library
1522 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302

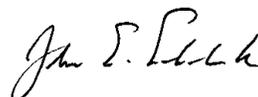
Or, if your tribal law is already online, we would simply need your permission to post a copy of your code and constitution in our Library's online catalog. More information about the American Indian Tribal Law Project can be found online at www.narf.org/nill/atlp. We understand that you may have questions or concerns, so please do not hesitate to call James Bryant at (303) 447-8760, ext. 139 and he will be happy to talk with you.

We would like to receive your tribe's codes and/or constitution as soon as possible, and we will help you step-by-step to complete this process. *Woli won* (thank you) for the time and attention you have given to our invitation.

Sincerely,



Virginia Cross
Chairwoman
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe



John Echohawk
Executive Director
Native American Rights Fund