



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS
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October 31, 2014

Ms. Jessica Almond
Chief of Staff
Wireless Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Almond:

On behalf of its Class I freight railroad members (“Railroads”) that executed Memoranda of Understanding (“MOUs”) with the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) on May 16, 2014, the Association of American Railroads (“AAR”) is writing you to inform you that the Railroads intend to name the MICA Group to serve as the Administrator of the Cultural Resources Fund as described in those MOUs, subject to finalizing the documents necessary to effect that relationship.

The MICA Group’s stated mission is two-fold: First, to assist communities and their partners in building social and economic capital and systems of change through innovative, sustainable, and culturally appropriate strategies; and second, to educate the larger community about the importance of honoring cultural diversity and indigenous ways of knowing in order to create a just, humane, and sustainable world. The MICA Group is a sponsored project of the Tides Center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for 35 years, Tides has assets of over \$244 million and provides fiscal oversight and programmatic guidance for 137 projects nationally and facilitated the granting of \$92.5 million in 2013.

As stated in the MOUs, the purpose of the Fund is to support Tribal and State cultural and historic preservation programs. Programs eligible for support from the Fund include existing cultural and historic preservation initiatives as well as new projects. Eligible Tribes and SHPOs will be able to apply for grants from the Fund to conduct or commission field surveys, ethnographic studies or other cultural resource reports; to purchase or enhance existing hardware and/or software used for processing historic preservation review requests; to pay the salaries of employees or contractors hired by an Eligible Tribe or SHPO to increase the capacity for

conducting any aspect of a cultural or historic preservation initiative, including future historic preservation review; for cultural or historic preservation staff training; or to engage in other related cultural and historic preservation activities.

MICA will establish an advisory board to advise it on the administration and distribution of the Fund. Though members of the board can change, the MICA Group has represented to the AAR that the board would consist of: Larry P. Aitkin, M.Ed. (Ojibwe/Chippewa), the Chair and Director of American Indian Studies at Itasca Community College; Samuel Cata, M.P.A. (Pueblo), Former Deputy Director and Interim Director, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), New Mexico (retired); Walter Echo-Hawk, J.D. (Pawnee), an attorney, author, University of Tulsa law professor, and expert on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); Richard Trudell, J.D. (Santee Sioux), a principal in Blue Stone Strategy Group and the founder and former executive director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program; Della Warrior, M.Ed. (Otoe/Missouria), the Director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, NM and former Chairperson and CEO of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe; W. Richard West, Jr., M.S., J.D. (Comanche), the President and CEO, Autry National Center and former Founding Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

The AAR and Railroads look forward to successfully completing the necessary agreements and will keep you informed as that progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Strafford". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Timothy J. Strafford
Counsel for the Association
of American Railroads