



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

January 17, 2025

Anthony Christianson, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board  
c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 East Tudor Road, M/S 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Chairman Christianson:

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 9 and July 29, 2024, requesting compensation for Regional Advisory Council (Council) members for the time and expertise they provide in carrying out their duties as Secretarial appointees to the Councils. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Haaland and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Our sincerest appreciation for your patience in awaiting our joint reply.

We recognize that financial compensation is an important issue to Council members. We have received several letters from the Board and Councils concerning the need for adequate compensation and know this issue has also been raised in previous Administrations. We understand the importance of the unique and abundant knowledge, experience, expertise, and community relationships every Council member brings to the table. Council members' contributions are fundamental to ensuring that the Federal Subsistence Management Program fulfills its responsibility to protect and provide the continued opportunity for subsistence uses on federal public lands.

We agree that Council members should be compensated for their work on behalf of federal subsistence management. As several of your letters noted, there is a regulatory and policy framework governing compensation of members of advisory committees chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. We had intended to work within this framework and include a request for funding for Council member compensation in the President's Fiscal Year 2026 budget. However, since the Office of Management and Budget has paused the budget formulation process and the Biden-Harris Administration will conclude on January 20, 2025, I will not have the opportunity to carry out the steps necessary to request the funding for the anticipated compensation. While this Administration will not be able to fulfill your request, I encourage you to bring it forward to the next Administration.

I sincerely appreciate your time and expertise in bringing these important matters to our attention, and it is our sincere hope that your request will be addressed in the upcoming Administration.

Sincerely,

**JOAN  
MOONEY**

Digitally signed by JOAN  
MOONEY  
Date: 2025.01.17  
15:26:56 -05'00'

Joan M. Mooney  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Exercising the Delegated Authority of  
Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management  
and Budget

cc: Secretary of Agriculture  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Office of Subsistence Management