



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield,
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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BLM to Cooperate With National Black Chamber of Commerce

U. S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States Director Mike Nedd, Director of DOI's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Robert W. Faithful, and National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) President and CEO Harry Alford signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today at BLM's Springfield, Virginia headquarters.

BLM Eastern States Director Mike Nedd remarked at the signing: "As guardians of the past and stewards for the future, the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States is committed to sound management of the resources in the 31 eastern states under our jurisdiction. This agreement between the Department of the Interior, BLM and the National Black Chamber of Commerce will provide an opportunity for all of our organization to work closer together to increase our effectiveness in working with minority and small businesses."

DOI's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will provide technical assistance and guidance in market research, understanding the Federal procurement process, and the DOI contracting programs.

BLM, Eastern States will assist in linking DOI resources with NBCC members.

NBCC will provide outreach to key African-American organizations and groups and their membership that may benefit from DOI programs. NBCC will also involve DOI and BLM in their national conferences and workshops promoting small business contracting and assistance opportunities.

Each organization will directly fund its own participation. The MOU will extend for a two years.

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