

**T-HUD & Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee**  
**Members Day Statement**  
**Congresswoman Radewagen (AS-At Large)**  
**March 9, 2017 @ 10am in 2358-A RHOB**

Thank you Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the subcommittee regarding some of the infrastructure needs in American Samoa.

As you may know, American Samoa lies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, south of the equator. We are the most remote U.S. territory or state and our infrastructure needs reflect that gulf in distance.

Currently, any air traffic that flies into or out of American Samoa, or even between the islands in my home district, must do so under the air traffic authority of Independent Samoa, due to the lack of an Air Traffic Control Tower in the territory...This includes the CODEL that was just there two weeks ago.

A proposed solution that would also be budget neutral, would be to allow the money that the FAA is requiring the American Samoa Government (ASG) to pay them (\$15 million over the next 10 years / \$2.5 million annually).

It seems the 2014 FAA land use audit report found that of approximately 865 acres of land approved by the FAA in 1973 for airport use; 325 acres had been removed from the airport and used for other ASG purposes. To rectify this issue, the ASG has agreed to pay the airport \$2.5 million a year for a 10-year period in exchange for FAA approval of a "Land-Use Change", authorizing an interdepartmental change in jurisdiction for the 325 acres rather than a "release" for the disposal of airport property.

My proposal would be to allow the FAA to repatriate these funds back to ASG for the specific purpose of building and maintaining an airport tower at Pago Pago International Airport. I will be working with leadership on the T&I Committee to secure an authorization for this proposal.

American Samoa is also suffering from dangerous roads and other traffic infrastructure safety issues that must be addressed soon. Because our small islands, which are roughly the same size as Washington, D.C., are hit with extremely powerful cyclones every year, the infrastructure is in constant need of repair. The lack of sufficient funding in the past has caused many of the much needed repairs to go undone.

To rectify this issue, and improve the safety of the roads in the territory, I am requesting that the subcommittee please consider a significant increase to the Territorial Highways Account authorized through the FAST Act. As it stands, there is no formula for which these funds are distributed and are left in the hands of administration officials...this policy has not benefitted American Samoa, and I also request that there be a study of how the funds in this account might be more fairly spread among the territories.

While I have only begun to touch on the many infrastructure needs in my home district, I wanted to take this limited time to highlight some of the most significant, and I look forward to working with the subcommittee in any way that I can to make sure that the people of American Samoa are being afforded the same resources as their counterparts in the states and other territories.

Thank you again Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price for your time and consideration of these requests. Should you have any questions, my Legislative Director Casey Brinck is happy to work with your staff and get you any information you may need.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.