

**Committee on Natural Resources  
Oversight Hearing  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
September 26, 2019  
2:00 p.m.**

**Oversight Hearing on**

*The Department of the Interior's Failure to Cooperate with Congressional Requests*

**Questions from Rep. Gallego** for Daniel Jorjani, Solicitor General, Department of Interior

1. On May 14, 2019, I, along with Chairman Grijalva and Representative Haaland, sent Secretary Bernhardt a letter expressing our concern with the content of the National Park Service's proposed rule on National Historic Preservation on federal land (Fed. Reg. 41, 6996-7005), especially the lack of government-to-government consultation that occurred before the rule was proposed. After receiving no answer and seeing the continued lack of meaningful tribal consultation on the development of this rule, on July 19, 2019, the Chairman, Rep. Haaland and I sent another letter to Secretary Bernhardt and NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith requesting:
  - a. A congressional briefing from relevant, decision-making staff at NPS on the development, substance and status of the rule before it is finalized;
  - b. That the Department reevaluate the proposed rule's compatibility with Congressional intent behind the National Historic Preservation Act; and
  - c. That the Department suspend action on the proposed rule until full and meaningful tribal consultation takes place.

It is very concerning that we have not received any response regarding these issues that we first brought to DOI's attention months ago. **When will you respond to this inquiry and provide us what we requested?**

2. In your testimony you mentioned your Department's eagerness to provide Congressional briefings on Department policy. **Can you commit to providing a Congressional briefing on this matter before the rule is finalized as requested in the July 19, 2019 letter?**