

*Opening Remarks  
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources  
Legislative Hearing  
Thursday, July 13, 2023*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for inviting me to participate in today's hearing and for holding a discussion on a critically important topic.

I want to take a minute to welcome President Buu Nygren to the Committee today. For those of you that don't know, I'm proud to represent over half the tribes in Arizona, including Navajo Nation. They are great partners in preserving American history and culture, and I have had many conversations with them on the importance of tribal sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

In June, the Biden Administration issued a Public Land Order banning hundreds of thousands of acres of federal mineral estate surrounding the Chaco Canyon National Historical Park for 20 years. This effectively prevents all private landowners and Navajo allottees from mineral leasing land in this area.

The ban will have significant negative economic impacts on both Navajo Nation and the American taxpayer, severely limiting tribal revenue, economic development, self-sufficiency, and American energy production.

I understand Chaco Canyon carries both cultural and historical significance for communities in the region, but the development of this land should be determined by those with lawful sovereignty and the 20,000 Navajo allottees who would be affected by this policy.

I introduced the *Energy Opportunities for All Act* because the Biden Administration did not properly seek out tribal input and have effectively implemented a destructive chokehold on tribal revenue and economic prosperity.

I'm happy that President Nygren is testifying on how this Public Land Order affects Navajo Nation, and I encourage you all to listen to his counsel and cosponsor my legislation.

Thank you, and I yield back.