

-Oversight Hearing-

“Tribal Infrastructure: Roads, Bridges, and Buildings”

OPENING STATEMENT

July 11, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Gallego.

Good infrastructure is key in economic prosperity and quality of life for people across the United States. Quality infrastructure boosts economic development, creates jobs, and quality of life increases. This includes the historically underserved areas of Indian Country.

There is, however, a great need throughout Indian Country for quality infrastructure, the lack of which creates barriers to economic development.

In March of 2017, under the leadership of then-Chairman Bishop, this subcommittee examined Indian healthcare facilities.

Witnesses told the Committee that most Indian healthcare facilities could only handle 52% of the services needed by their communities because of funding shortfalls. In 2016, the average age of Indian Health Service hospitals was estimated to be **40 years old, which is quadruple that of the average hospital in the United States.**

However, infrastructure needs in Indian Country stretch beyond healthcare, which is the topic of today's hearing.

I'm looking forward to discussing the need for roads, bridges, and buildings in Indian Country, as well as creative solutions to these problems.

I want to thank the witnesses for being here today and look forward to their testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.