

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Gallego for Mr. Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior:

1. In December 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the National Park Service conducted a meeting with the Tohono O’odham Nation to discuss construction activities on the sites of Monument Hill and Quitobaquito Springs.
 - a. Please provide a record of communications and meetings between U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and the National Park Service (NPS) with the Tohono O’odham Nation regarding the border wall’s construction activities within Organ Pipe National Monument, including the activities on Monument Hill and Quitobaquito Springs.

Questions from Rep. Grijalva for Mr. Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior:

1. In your testimony, you mention that the Department of Interior (DOI) has strong interagency and inter-department relationships. For this situation, an inter-agency relationship would include working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
 - a. Please provide the dates, and related documents, which demonstrate that Secretary Bernhardt has met with the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, regarding the construction of the border wall.
2. During my tour of the border, the Tohono O’odham Nation’s archeologist attempted to interact with the contractor that DHS had hired as its arborist. The Tribal archeologist tried to ask the arborist about DHS’ criteria for the removal of saguaro cacti, as the Nation has found DHS’ internal policies for the removal and replanting of saguaro cacti to be very inconsistent in the past.
 - a. Rather than providing an answer, the DHS arborist said that he could not talk to the Nation because he was under an order to not speak with Tribal officials or representatives. Are you aware of this “gag order” that prevents DHS contractors from speaking to Tribal representatives?
 - b. What is DOI’s internal policy regarding the agency’s interactions with tribal officials and representatives?
 - c. How, if at all, does DOI provide input in DHS’ internal policies about agency interactions with tribal officials and tribal representatives?

Questions from Rep. Haaland for Mr. Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior:

1. You mention in your testimony that the Department will strive to “provide effective collaboration and establish an avenue for the Department’s land management interests to be considered in ongoing border security efforts with DHS and the Army Corps of Engineers.”
 - a. By land management interests, do you mean national monuments and federal lands held in trust for tribal nations?
 - b. What are the legal implications of waiving pertinent federal laws to build on Tribal trust land? In what ways would these implications affect Indian Country in the future?