

Opening Statement

- Good afternoon. I want to thank the Chair for having this important hearing about federal facilities in Indian Country.
- The constant underfunding of federal buildings in Indian Country is well documented and well-known for those who have worked with tribes.
- In my district alone – there have been road closures due to flooding and school closures. In the state, the Pima Indian Medical Center closed the labor and deliveries section not too long ago.
- The underfunding of federal facilities has become so consistent with the federal government. Many tribes have ventured on their own to fill the gaps for the federal government.

- Part of the federal government’s trust responsibility to tribes includes consistent, adequate and continuous investments in federal facilities and infrastructure for Indian Country.
- By investing in safe facilities for BIE students and IHS patients, we uphold the United States’ commitment to tribal governments.
- Investments in education, healthcare, and the well-being of the Indigenous Peoples in this country are long overdue.
- Together, we should ensure that we uphold the commitment to tribes by providing safe and reliable federal facilities to tribal governments.
- Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this necessary hearing today. I yield back.