

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2026

Mr. Haven Harris
Co-Chair, Board of Directors
Native American Contractors Association
11043 Sky Ridge Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs oversight hearing on February 3, 2026 to present testimony on "*Making Federal Economic Development Programs Work in Indian Country.*"

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issues and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Seneca Feys, Clerk, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs at Seneca.Feys@mail.house.gov by February 20, 2026. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hurd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
February 3, 2026
2:00 PM

"Making Federal Economic Development Programs Work in Indian Country"

Questions from Rep. Westerman for Mr. Haven Harris, Co-Chair, Board of Directors,
Native American Contractors Association

1. You note that federal contracting with tribes and ANCs generates approximately \$1.4 billion annually.
 - a. How does federal contracting revenue translate into long-term capacity and stability for Native-owned firms?
 - b. What indicators best demonstrate that contracting revenue is building long-term capacity rather than short-term dependence?

2. How do NACA member businesses typically access capital in connection with federal work? Are they through contract revenue, bonding, or financing tied to federal procurement?
 - a. Where do those mechanisms most often break down in practice?

3. Are there specific existing capital or financing programs that are available to Native tribes but that underperform in practice?
 - a. If so, what targeted changes to program design or administration would most improve their effectiveness, without creating new programs?

4. What types of industries or services are Native-owned 8(a) firms most active in today? What does that concentration tell us about where the 8(a) program is working well?

5. Where do federal rules or procedures most commonly slow or prevent economic activity for tribes and Native-owned businesses? Which of those rules or procedures should Congress prioritize in removing?
6. Have Native-owned 8(a) firms encountered duplicative or inconsistent data-reporting requirements across federal agencies?
 - a. What steps could agencies take to prevent duplication while maintaining oversight?
 - b. Would shared data standards or single-submission reporting help in standardizing the process?
7. You cite procurement timelines of 30–60 days for Native 8(a) firms versus 12–18 months for traditional procurement.
 - a. Can you explain more about what that means, and the difference that it makes for federal agencies on the ground?
8. You emphasize that Native participation in federal contracting is a political, and not a racial classification. Why is this distinction important in this situation?