



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

City Council

P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103
Tel: (505) 768-3100
Fax: (505) 768-3227
www.cabq.gov/council

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December 12, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324-A Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-6201

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1324-A Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-6201

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

I am writing to express my strong support for legislation that would transfer surplus land currently under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration to the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico. This parcel, totaling 9.89 acres, is federally owned and therefore has no impact on local property taxes.

These tracts were part of the original Albuquerque Indian School (AIS) property. This legislation will further the 19 Pueblos' ongoing efforts to reclaim the former AIS site for economic development, educational, and cultural purposes. The transfer will enable Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc. and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to continue with the transformation of the 12th Street corridor into a vibrant economic hub that benefits both the City of Albuquerque and the 19 Pueblos.

Importantly, this property has been determined excess by the GSA and qualifies for several economic development incentives that will accelerate growth and job creation, including:

- **Opportunity Zone designation** under the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA), which attracts private investment and supports key industry sectors.
- **Foreign-Trade Zone status**, enabling businesses to reduce costs and compete globally.
- **HubZone certification** through the U.S. Small Business Administration, promoting small business growth and federal contracting opportunities.
- **Industrial Revenue Bonds** for industrial and office uses, supporting infrastructure and development.
- **Metropolitan Redevelopment Bonds** for the Sawmill/Wells Park area, encouraging revitalization.
- **New Market Tax Credits**, which incentivize private investment in underserved communities.
- **NM Collateral Assistance Program**, providing financial support for business expansion.

These tools will ensure that the land transfer not only honors historical and cultural ties but also creates lasting economic benefits for District 2 residents and all Albuquerque citizens.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 505-417-6689 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Baca
City Councilor -- District 2

cc: Monique Fragua, President/CEO, IPMI/IPCC