



December 9, 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:

We write in strong support of H.R. 6162, the Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025, and respectfully urge the Committee to schedule a hearing on this important legislation at the earliest opportunity. We also want to provide additional context about how this land transfer will directly benefit the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) is a 501(c)(3) organization wholly owned and operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico that serves as community gathering place where Pueblo culture is celebrated through creative and cultural experiences while providing economic opportunities to Pueblo and local communities. This legislation would transfer approximately 9.89 acres of adjacent GSA property to be held in trust for the benefit of all 19 Pueblos, allowing us to expand our mission of education, health, culture, and economic empowerment.

Planned Use of the Land

The transferred land will be developed as a mixed-use campus featuring:

Food Systems Leadership: This transfer allows us to extend the first 100% tribally owned and operated food system in New Mexico, which aggregates and stores products from Pueblo ranchers, farmers, and value-added producers. Currently, this system supplies tribally operated and BIE schools statewide and supports programs like Fresh Rx, which delivers produce prescriptions to those in need. In the past year alone, Fresh Rx aggregated, stored, and delivered fresh produce bags to community health centers in 14 of the 19 Pueblos and the Navajo Nation.

Entrepreneurship & Workforce Development: Currently, 60% of our entrepreneur clients are Native-owned businesses. This additional land will allow us to scale these services, helping even more entrepreneurs grow and thrive through spaces for Pueblo and local small businesses, light manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, and logistics.

Community Integration: This land will serve as a north anchor of Albuquerque's Rail Trail development, creating a safe, vibrant, and accessible destination for residents and visitors.

Sustainability: Development will incorporate renewable energy and green infrastructure to align with Pueblo values of stewardship and environmental responsibility.

Structure and Pueblo Benefits

Questions have been raised about the relationship between IPCC and the Indian Pueblo Marketing, Inc. (IPMI). IPMI is a Section 17 federally chartered, for-profit corporation wholly owned by the 19 Pueblos that manages property development and operations on the former Albuquerque Indian School campus, generating revenue to ensure the long- and short-term sustainability of IPCC and Pueblo-serving projects. Together, IPCC and IPMI have transformed trust lands into a thriving business and cultural corridor.

The economic benefits flow directly to the 19 Pueblos in two ways:

1. **Tax Revenue:** Operating under the 19 Pueblos District, a political subdivision of the 19 Pueblos, all taxes collected on the campus are retained and distributed to the 19 Pueblos.
2. **Profit Distributions:** Profits from IPMI operations provide distributions to Pueblo shareholders.

Both tax and profit distributions are unrestricted, allowing each Pueblo to allocate them according to their own priorities and needs.

Why This Matters

This expansion is not just about economic development—it is about sovereignty, cultural continuity, and intergenerational opportunity. By consolidating these parcels under Pueblo trust, we ensure that every square foot serves the mission of education, culture, and economic empowerment for the 19 Pueblos. This additional parcel of land will create jobs, pathways for entrepreneurship, and business services for Pueblo communities and the broader public.

We respectfully request that the Committee schedule a hearing on H.R. 6162 and stand ready to provide testimony or additional information as needed. We are grateful for Congresswoman Stansbury's leadership on this legislation and look forward to working with the Committee to move this bill forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Monique Fragua, President & CEO
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc.**

cc:
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Ben Ray Luján
Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury

