

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:

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce strongly supports HR 6162 and the transfer of 9.89 acres of former Albuquerque Indian School property to the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico. This legislation represents a high-value economic and commercial development opportunity for the Albuquerque metro area, and it directly advances business growth, job creation, and long-term regional competitiveness.

Albuquerque's economy is strengthened when land within our urban core is put into productive, well-planned commercial use. The Pueblos' very high-quality existing stewardship of previously transferred parcels has already created one of the city's most successful cultural and commercial centers. Through the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) and Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc. (IPMI), the Pueblos have delivered tangible economic gains: millions in new annual economic activity, expanded retail and hospitality offerings, hundreds of local jobs, and a business environment that attracts both small enterprises and major private-sector partners.

The proposed land transfer, is adjacent to existing Pueblo owned property, will build on this past success with direct business-community benefits across several key dimensions:

**Commercial expansion and private investment.** Additional commercial and light industrial development capacity will respond to known needs of entrepreneurs who are, for example, seeking warehousing space, office space for start-up activities and other infrastructure support. Thoughtful analysis and plan development will ensure the highest and best use of the property to the benefit of both entrepreneurs and the community.

**Tourism Support.** Another possibility would be to develop a marketplace for food and other products to be sold adjacent to the north end of the Rail Trail project which will blossom into a vibrant community activity when completed. In turn, this will increase visitor traffic supporting other local businesses and the community at large and, potentially, increase the food distribution network in an area which is currently underserved.

**Local job creation and talent development.** Expanded IPMI and IPCC operations will support additional employment and job training opportunities. Moreover, other service providers and local businesses will benefit from the increased economic activity.

These outcomes align directly with the Chamber's priorities: a diversified local economy, expanded private-sector investment, improved employment opportunities, and a business climate that rewards innovation and collaboration. The Pueblos have demonstrated a consistent capacity to develop land productively, responsibly, and in ways that contribute materially to Albuquerque's economic health.

HR 6162 enables a continuation of this proven model. It is business-forward policy that strengthens the relationship between federal, tribal, and local partners while producing measurable, near-term, and long-term value for the Albuquerque economy.

Please feel free to contact Terri Cole at 505-764-3741 or [terri@greaterabq.com](mailto:terri@greaterabq.com) for any further information.

Sincerely,



**Peter Lorenz**  
Chairman of the Board  
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce



**Terri Cole**  
President and CEO  
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

Cc:

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, United States Senator  
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, United States Senator  
The Honorable Melanie Stansbury, United States Congresswoman  
Ms. Monique Fragua, President & CEO, IPMI/IPCC