

Commissioner Barbara Baca, District 1

415 Silver Ave. SW, 8th Floor
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
Office: 505-468-7027
District1@bernco.gov
www.bernco.gov



December 11, 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 (H.R.6162) 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 transforming the 12th Street corridor into a vibrant economic hub that benefits both the City of Albuquerque and the 19 Pueblos.

As Commissioner for Bernalillo County's District 1, I have long championed public-private partnerships that strengthen our economy and community. The AIS campus has been a poster child for these collaborations, demonstrating how shared investment can create spaces that honor history while driving growth. This transfer also reflects my commitment to government-to-government relationships, ensuring that cultural preservation remains central to development efforts.

Community safety is another priority I share with the campus. Their partnerships with local law enforcement mirror my own initiatives to improve safety throughout District 1, creating secure environments for residents and visitors. Likewise, my 2025 priorities include maintaining and improving infrastructure and community spaces, which aligns with the campus' vision for accessible, well-maintained facilities that serve all.

Finally, this legislation supports workforce development, a cornerstone of my agenda. By

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leveraging economic development incentives and creating good-paying jobs, we can expand training opportunities while fostering long-term prosperity.

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

- Opportunity Zone designation under the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA), attracting private investment and supporting key industry sectors.
- Foreign-Trade Zone status, enabling businesses to reduce costs and compete globally.
- Hub Zone 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 and stability for District 1 residents and all Albuquerque citizens.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara Baca
Bernalillo County Commissioner
District 1

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

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