

**House Budget Committee Statement**  
**The Honorable Deb Haaland**  
**Members' Day Hearing**  
**March 6, 2019**

Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Womack, and Members of the House Budget Committee, thank you for this opportunity to share New Mexico's key priorities in the Fiscal Year 2020 federal budget. It is a great honor to speak before you today, and I appreciate the hard work your committee does.

Mr. Chairman, my district encompasses, Albuquerque and surrounding areas, is blessed with natural beauty, over 300 days of sunshine each year, and abundant wind resources that can drive a vibrant, renewable energy economy that will create millions of high-wage jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. I urge the committee to develop a budget that robustly supports our commitment to efficient, renewable energy and investing in job training in a green economy.

I encourage you to include sufficient funding to increase the maximum Pell grant, provide universal Pre-K, improve teacher effectiveness, support low-performing schools, and focus on proven methods to improve student achievement.

As Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, I recognize the role of the federal government in preserving the natural places for future generations. Our budget should fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to maximize habitat protection, public access, public recreation, and historic preservation.

My district is home to many rural communities -- the budget should live up to the promises our nation has made to them. I urge you to fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and allow for a permanent SRS solution that will ensure forest counties receive stable, long-term payments.

I take my role on the House Armed Services Committee very seriously. Last month, military families living in privatized housing in Albuquerque shared troubling news.

**We have a military housing crisis on our hands and we need to fix it.** That's why I am calling on this committee to adequately fund the Family Housing Improvement Fund (FHIF) and the Family Housing Operation & Maintenance fund to provide quality housing for military families.

My state is home to national labs and military bases that are vital to our national security, including Sandia National Laboratory and Kirtland Air Force Base in my district. I urge you to provide funding to allow work to expand Sandia and Kirtland to increase our national security and develop innovative technologies to address the many challenges we face, including climate change through the DoD and Department of Energy.

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The Air Force must have the resources it needs to clean up the fuel spill at Kirtland and PFAS contaminates in the areas surrounding bases in New Mexico and nationwide. It is safety and public health hazards that is threatening New Mexicans, and similarly situated Americans around the country.

As one of the first two native American women elected to Congress and Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, I urge you to address the serious problems indigenous peoples face.

Today, Native Americans face unique challenges and harsh living conditions resulting from the federal government's forced removal of Tribes to reservation lands. As a result, many residing on the reservation still lack access to clean drinking water, adequate law enforcement personnel, indoor plumbing, structurally sound buildings, and safe roads.

The government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations with and the United States is based on commitments made by the federal government in exchange for the surrender and reduction of their homelands. Congress' failure to adequately fund Indian Country is a fundamental violation of the trust responsibility and basic civil rights of Native Americans. I urge you to develop a budget in which equitable and non-discretionary federal funding is made available *directly to* Tribal Nations.

Last but certainly not least, Mr. Chairman, it is essential that we have a successful 2020 Census to ensure both proper representation in this body and the proper distribution of federal funding and resources to our communities.

A budget is a statement of priorities. It's our priority to invest in education, health care, innovation and competitiveness. We must reaffirm those commitments in the FY 2020 budget resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these priorities