Thank you, Chair Haaland, and thank you for holding today’s hearing.

It is important that the House continue its work during these unprecedented times.

Hearings like today’s show that we can do that safely and smartly, while still conducting the people’s business.

Rep. O’Halleran and I introduced H.R. 7099 after months of work and consultation with our colleagues in the House and Senate, and with senior staff from the University of Arizona.

The bill would authorize an important land exchange between the University and the Forest Service for two small parcels in the Coconino National Forest.

Once exchanged, the University can develop facilities on site, including dorms and classrooms,
to support the newly accredited College of Veterinary Medicine.

- These new accommodations will allow all students passing through that program to receive hands on, in-the-field experience as a foundational part of their curriculum.

- This bill is as straightforward as it is important to the University and the State of Arizona.

- It supports the next generation of Arizona Veterinarians, and language we have included ensures that there will be a fair return for the American taxpayer.

- The Senate companion receives bipartisan support from Senators McSally and Sinema, and I hope my bill will find that same broad support in the House.

- Madam Chair, I thank you again for your consideration of this proposal today, and I urge its swift consideration by the Committee.