

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Matt Cartwright for Mr. Gishi:

1. According to the National Congress of American Indian's (NCAI) FY 2020 Indian Country Budget Request, there are about 161,000 miles of roads and trails in Indian Country that are currently eligible for federal funding. Tribal nations own and operate about 13,000 miles of these eligible roadways, while BIA owns and operates about 29,000 miles, leaving the remaining 119,000 miles to the purview of states, counties, townships, boroughs, and other federal agencies. Can you speak to the state of these remaining 119,000 miles of federal-funding-eligible roadways in Indian Country?
 - a. How do these roadways compare to those owned and operated by BIA?

Questions from Rep. Steven Horsford for Mr. Gishi:

In your statement at the hearing, you spoke of your commitment “to improving and adequately maintaining tribal infrastructure to provide public safety, security, and economic development opportunities in Indian communities.” Furthermore, you stated that “safe roads...are important when transporting and supporting people in rural areas to and from schools, to local hospitals, and for delivering emergency services.”

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe in Nevada is home to a reservation in rural Nevada. The tribe members currently rely on 24 miles of unpaved and unsafe road (State Route 379) to reach distant communities where they work, attend school, and visit family. Numerous accidents and fatalities have occurred over the years. Moreover, in addition to the remote location, the limited access to the reservation resulting from the poorly maintained and unpaved dirt road hampers the tribe's economic development.

The tribe would like the federal and the state governments to partner to address this critical road safety problem.

1. Will you commit to work with your counterparts at the state level to solve this problem?
2. Will you commit to meet with the tribe and their representatives in the next 60 days to develop a plan to address this serious road safety issue?
3. Would you also be willing to work the BLM to assure that reservation surveys are completed in accordance with the Nevada Native Nations Lands Act (P.L.114-232) so that the federal government can accurately determine which portion of the road exists on tribal land?

4. Will you work with my office and the committee to investigate ways to assist the tribe on this road safety issue? Ensuring Duckwater Shoshone Tribe can apply for and access any federal infrastructure funding that could solve this road issue?