

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States
Remote Oversight Hearing - Cisco WebEx
June 17, 2021
12:00 p.m.

Oversight Hearing on “*Examining Federal Facilities in Indian Country*”

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Mr. Randy Grinnell, Deputy Director for Management Operations, Indian Health Service

1. Briefly, can you reiterate how the limited capacities of IHS facilities have constrained IHS’ health care services?
 - a. In turn, how does the limited capacity issue affect IHS’ patient population relying upon those facilities?
 - b. In your opinion, do you believe that IHS’ facilities needs fall under the priorities of the President’s American Jobs Plan?

2. Your testimony references the 1993 Health Care Facilities Construction Priority list, which IHS is required to complete before spending appropriated funding on other construction projects.
 - a. How many projects remain on this list, and approximately how much additional funding will be needed to complete them?
 - b. Of IHS’ annual appropriated funds, how much is dedicated to this construction priority list?
 - c. Given the amount of funding Congress passed, did IHS dedicate any Coronavirus relief funds towards this list?
 - d. After the completion of all priority construction projects, what will be next? Does IHS have a plan of action for other facilities construction?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Mr. Jason Freihage, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

1. How did BIE’s deferred maintenance backlog affect the agency’s ability to adequately respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and create safe learning environments for its students?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. David Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

1. Your testimony includes the BIA's Office of Justice Services (OJS) estimated recurring cost for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's maintenance of a full police force—\$34.4 million. Using the same formula, the Nation calculated its new estimate for this maintenance under the McGirt decision—\$40 million for tribal courts and \$20.6 million for detention costs.
 - a. If you are able to, can you break these figures down for us? What do these recurring costs support?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation

1. The BIE budget proposal includes \$264.3 million in annual funding for Education Construction to replace and repair BIE facilities, supplemented by an additional \$95.0 million per year from the Great American Outdoors Act.
 - a. In your experience, do you think these funding levels are enough to account for all of Indian Country?
 - b. Can you reiterate why the federal government must prioritize investments in Indian education facilities?
2. You mentioned that the Nation has been on the IHS facilities construction list for over 20 years, and your current IHS hospital is fifty years old, with only 14 beds and minimal resources.
 - a. IHS has allocated only \$15 million for maintenance funding, yet \$225 million is needed. How could the allocated \$15 million be used, and what remains missing?

Questions from Rep. Leger Fernández for Hon. Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Chairman, Hopi Tribe

1. You mentioned that the Hopi Detention Center was not built for incarceration, yet it was converted into a detention center.
 - a. Can you elaborate on the issues that have arisen while converting the treatment center to a detention center?
2. Your testimony mentions that BIA had contracted with outside correctional centers to house the Tribe's inmates following the closure of the Hopi Detention Center.
 - a. Can you elaborate on the process for evacuating the inmates and personnel from the Center?
 - b. How did this closure impact facilities staff and law enforcement officers?