Statement for the Record
U.S. Department of the Interior
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
Legislative Hearing
On
H.R. 10458, Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026
H.R. 10307, the Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act

November 19, 2026

The Department of the Interior appreciates the opportunity to provide this Statement for the Record on H.R. 10458, Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026, and H.R. 10307, Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act.

H.R. 10458, Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act of 2026

H.R. 10458 would transfer approximately 18,628 acres of Federal land from the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior, to be held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

The legislation would make the transferred lands part of the Tribe's reservation, subject to valid existing rights. It would prohibit class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (Pub. L. 100-497) and require continued public access for hunting, fishing, and general recreation, subject to the condition that the Tribe may restrict or regulate access to the land for public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or emergency reasons. In addition, the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Tribe within 180 days of enactment to secure existing administrative access by the Secretary. H.R. 10458 further provides that the Secretary shall provide to the Tribe all reciprocal right-of-way and cooperative agreements to the transferred land.

Congress has the authority to direct the Department to acquire and administer land in trust for the benefit of Tribal Nations. Acquiring land in trust is essential to Tribal sovereignty and empowers Tribes to use their lands to serve their communities. The Department supports the intent of this legislation and defers to the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding provisions affecting lands and interests administered by the U.S. Forest Service. We welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on technical modifications to support implementation.

H.R. 10307, Anaktuvuk Pass Food Security Access Act

H.R. 10307 would require the National Park Service to allow residents of Anaktuvuk Pass to use snowmobiles, boats, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, and similar vehicles in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve for subsistence activities related to harvesting food and other subsistence resources. The bill would establish specific statutory authorization for subsistence transportation by Anaktuvuk Pass residents, separate from the existing access provisions under Section 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The Department supports this bill, as it aligns with the President's commitment to making national parks more accessible to the American people and is consistent with our recently proposed rule, "Off-Road Vehicle Access for Subsistence in Gates of the Arctic National Park," which would allow qualifying residents of Anaktuvuk Pass to use off-road vehicles for lawful subsistence activities in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.