

House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
Oversight hearing titled “Examining the President’s FY 2025 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Office of Insular Affairs.”

8 May 2024

Intro: Oversight hearing titled “Examining the President’s FY 2025 Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Office of Insular Affairs.”

Consulting officials/Congressional Witnesses:

- The Honorable Bryan Newland, Asst. Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of Interior ([written testimony](#))
- The Honorable Carmen Cantor, Asst. Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Department of the Interior ([written testimony](#))
- The Honorable Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service - Department of Health and Human Services ([written testimony](#))

Highlights:

- Asst. Secretary Bryan Newland (Bureau of Indian Affairs – Department of Interior) presented the [Bureau’s FY 2025 budget request](#).
- \$41m to support Agriculture and Range efforts – no specifics laid out in testimony but details found on page [124 of Bureau’s FY 2025 budget request justification](#).
- DOI proposes reclassifying 105(l) lease agreement requirements from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2026.
- \$11m in Indian Land Consolidation, with threat that if this program isn’t fully funded Indian Country will return to pre-Keepseagle days.

Notes:

In questions from members, there were no specific inquiries on Tribal food and agriculture.

In written testimony, Asst. Secretary Newland discussed some relevant points that may touch Tribal food and agriculture.

In Agriculture, his testimony noted the budget also includes \$41m to support Agriculture and Range efforts.

From Asst. Secretary Newland’s written remarks, he notes the administration’s request in the area of Tribal lease payments, that DOI proposes reclassifying 105(l) lease agreement requirements from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2026, with an estimated \$120m in discretionary funding needs in 2025 to fully cover projected requirements. The budget also includes an increase of \$2.2m in executive direction to meet the growing level of requests of Tribes. The annual number of Tribal lease requests currently exceeds 600. This funding for additional staff is critical to meet this demand in a timely manner.

In Trust issues, he noted that the administration requested \$11m in Indian Land Consolidation with a to address fractionation and incorporate lessons learned from previous programs.

- [“If the land consolidation program is not funded at a sufficient funding level, all the gains from reducing fractionation from LBBP funding could be lost by 2038, and we project that Indian Country will be back to the same level of fractionated interests as 2012...”](#) – Asst. Secretary Newland

In Trust Natural Resource Management, they a new element of the Tribal Climate Adaptation program, specifically a \$500,000 increase to fund the BIA’s role in the National Seed Strategy to support botanists and ethnologists who will seek out Indigenous knowledge to incorporate into restoration practices.