

[Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#)

Full Committee Hearing to Examine the President's Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Interior  
for Fiscal Year 2026  
June 11, 2025

**Overview:**

- The purpose of this hearing is to examine the President's budget request for the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) for Fiscal Year 2026. DOI Secretary Doug Burgum was the witness.

[Secretary Doug Burgum's Testimony](#)

[Sen. Mike Lee](#), (Chair, R-UT)

- Supported the administration's focus on streamlining operations and resisting regulatory overreach.
- Urged the DOI to align with the President's agenda and deliver results efficiently

[Sen. Martin Heinrich](#), (Ranking Member, D-NM)

- Raised concerns about severe understaffing and proposed funding cuts that would impact the Department's ability to manage public lands, water infrastructure, and scientific research.
- More than 30% cuts to Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education reflect a betrayal of treaty obligations and a threat to public safety in Indian country.

**Tribal Nutrition and Agriculture Issues Raised:**

- Major Budget Cuts to Tribal Programs:
  - Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) raised that cuts to BIA and BIE would severely impact Indian country and represent a "dereliction of treaty obligations".
  - The cuts also undermine the safety of Tribal nations.
    - Secretary Burgum responded that the proposed budget supports core programs at BIA, BIE and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. He did not directly address how the proposed budget cuts would affect nutrition, agriculture, or education in Tribal communities.
- [Sen. Alex Padilla](#), (D-CA) and others raised concerns that the lack of staffing and resources in key agencies would cause challenges to Tribal infrastructure and environmental monitoring, both of which directly affect Tribal agriculture and food systems.

**Implications for Tribal Nutrition and Agriculture:**

- No detail discussions about how the cuts to BIA and BIE might impact:
  - Food assistance programs
  - Agricultural support and extension services
  - School nutrition and education programs