

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR EMERITUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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May 3, 2024

Representative Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Modular Classrooms Construction project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, located at 7474 S Camino De Oeste, Tucson, Arizona 85757. The funding would be used for the purchase and installation of modular buildings which will facilitate the beginning of the return of the Pascua Yaqui education system.

Because the tribe is located within the Black Wash, a FEMA-recognized flood zone, the previous education building flooded and shortly thereafter, developed toxic black mold, causing the building to be condemned, which necessitated children being transferred off the Reservation to Tucson Unified School District.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the construction of an elementary school specifically for this community ensures that indigenous Pascua Yaqui children have an equal education opportunity to learn and thrive, not only in their own environment, but when off-reservation, as well; their fundamental right as citizens of the United States. The modular purchase buys more than just a building. It buys the uncontrollable ticking-clock, the necessary time it will take to secure larger-scale funding to build-out a State-of-the-art Education campus that will accommodate grades K through 12. This purchase made by taxpayer funds will ensure that the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's K-2 Education Center will incorporate cultural elements, language, and traditions in the curriculum that these children lost while attending public school.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R'.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress