

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2025

Stephen Ehikian
Acting Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Ehikian:

We write to express our serious concern about the recently announced closure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Western Regional Office in Phoenix. We ask that you reverse this decision and provide clarity about how the decision to close this office was reached.

As you may know, the BIA office in Phoenix serves 53 tribes in the western region of the United States, including 20 in our home state of Arizona. Its closure will severely limit access for all of these tribes to essential services ranging from economic development to child social services to water system improvements. This is part of a larger trend: 25 BIA offices, or 27% of all BIA locations across the country, are slated for closure.

It is unclear how Phoenix's Western Regional office was selected for closure, and whether the repercussions of this decision have been fully considered. To that end, please answer the following questions by March 21st:

- How did the GSA decide what BIA offices to close? What criteria were incorporated into this decision-making process?
- What is your plan for ensuring the BIA continues to provide services to the tribes previously served by the Western Regional Office?
- Was the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes taken into account when making this decision?

We are very concerned that this office closure is the latest in a long string of arbitrary attacks on the fundamental functions of the federal government. The federal government is at serious risk of failing at its most basic obligations, including breaking long-held promises to tribes. We look forward to your immediate response to our questions.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator