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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MILITARY PERSONNEL  
READINESS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
*VICE-CHAIR*

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, *CHAIR*  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS, *CO-CHAIR*

REGIONAL WHIP

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways & Means

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

### **RE: MEMBERS' DAY HEARING TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE DEB HAALAND**

Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to address key legislation that will better the lives of working people and their families. As a working-class mother, I know firsthand the impact the work of this committee has on everyday working-class families.

#### **Surprise Medical Billing**

Mr. Chairman, since the passing of the Affordable Care Act, over 20 Million people gained access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Even though millions of people have gained access to health care, they remain afraid to use it because of the "surprise medical billing" dilemma. People should not return home to thousands of dollars of medical debt they unknowingly incurred after a visit to the hospital. Unfortunately, one in seven people face this reality. We need to re-establish trust in our healthcare system by passing legislation to make sure insured patients are no longer blindsided by high medical bills.

#### **Self-Employment Tax for Gig Workers (Gig Is Up Act)**

Advances in technology have led to the boom of the gig economy. The gig economy employs nearly 60 million workers in the United States. Tech companies, notably ride-sharing platforms like Uber and Lyft, have grown into multinational billion-dollar companies with nearly 4 million people worldwide serving as drivers for them. Gig workers have improved access to many services for people in underserved communities and provide commonsense solutions to everyday problems. Nevertheless, we cannot let large tech companies dodge standard labor practices, pay unfair wages, or evade employer contributions to Social Security and Medicare. We must end the exploitation of working-class people just trying to make ends meet.

That is why I urge this committee to support my upcoming **Gig Is Up Act**, which would require Uber, Lyft and similar multinational corporations to pay both the employer and employee portion of payroll contributions for their independent contractors. This will strengthen Social Security and protect workers' retirement and disability protections, while deterring the misclassification of workers.

#### **Clean Energy Tax & Provisions**

My district is blessed with over 300 days of sunshine each year and abundant wind resources that can drive a vibrant, renewable energy economy that will create millions of high-wage jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our impact on the planet's climate.

I urge the committee to extend and expand tax credits that drive investments into energy efficiency and renewable energy. In particular, I ask you to extend credits to incentivize energy efficiency retrofits to existing commercial and multifamily residential buildings; credits for energy produced from renewable sources; and credits for alternative fuel motor vehicles and refueling property and for plug-in electric vehicles.

I also recommend the committee ensure that the credit for energy efficient new homes does not result in competition between efficiency and renewables; revise the credit for nonbusiness energy property improvements to provide a whole-building-based tax credit for energy savings of 20 percent or more; include energy storage equipment; and acknowledge the difference between onshore and offshore wind.

I also encourage the committee to extend the **Wind Production Tax Credit** and the **Solar Investment Tax Credit** beyond their sunsets and allow limited transferability of these credits.

### **Tribal Tax Bill**

The harmful consequences of the Republican Tax Bill (the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017) for Native American youth need to be reversed. Young Tribal members receive a distribution from gaming revenue, royalties, allotted tribal land, and sales of resources that are subject to the Kiddie Tax. The Republican Tax Bill would unjustly increase the tax rate on the financial support many Native American youth rely on to do things such as go to college or purchase their first home. That's why I encourage this committee to take up common sense legislation like the **Tax Fairness for Tribal Youth Act of 2019**, which exempts taxable payments made by tribal governments to their youth from the Kiddie Tax.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to working with this committee to bring solutions to working-class people and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Haaland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress