

Congressman Gosar's Remarks on Tuba City Hospital Partnership with KARL STORZ

Hi, I'm Congressman Paul Gosar representing Rural Arizona's First Congressional District.

I ran for Congress because I strongly believe that when government teams up with innovative people from the business community, the American people win – and get the best bang for their buck. I'm here to highlight a project which does just that – solves a local problem without government intervention or resources.

I'd like to thank a few people who were key in putting together this partnership: Joe Engelken, CEO of Tuba City Hospital, Dawn Reich, Utilization Review Director for Tuba City Hospital, Brandy Tomhave, consultant for Tuba City Hospital and all of the wonderful staff at the hospital for your visionary thinking additionally this project wouldn't have been possible without Jack Frydrych, of Karl STORZ Endoscopy and Sybil Storz, of Karl STORZ Endoscopy.

I am pleased and proud to have worked with each of you to develop a strong and innovative partnership. The good people at Karl STORZ have been leaders in not only medical technology, but in bringing cutting edge life saving health care solutions to the poorest people in the world. Recently the company decided to refocus some of their philanthropic work here in the United States and wanted to work with Native American populations.

Many Native people suffer from abject poverty and very high rates of chronic health conditions – but Native folks also possess the cultural attributes, namely matriarchal, prevention based, and community based that are crucial to reforming our health care system.

When Karl STORZ began visiting Capitol Hill to see who could partner with them in this effort, I immediately suggested Tuba City Hospital on the Navajo Reservation. Tuba City Hospital is performing cutting edge health care every day for their patients and also has earned a level of independence from the Indian Health Service to allow them the flexibility to engage in this type of outside the box partnership.

This project brings high tech equipment but more than that I'd like to highlight a critical aspect of the project: that the advances represented in the new procedures and new technologies available will not only help patients on the Navajo lands, but will also provide invaluable support for the training and education of other healthcare providers outside of the Navajo Nation, such as at the University of Arizona.

The donations and training that STORZ has already provided Tuba City will save lives and improve lives for folks who really need it. I hope this partnership will serve as an example to others of what can be done when we think outside the box and seek out ways to work together.

Thank you for your time. Together we can work to build a stronger healthcare system within our local communities and ultimately a stronger nation.