

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Representative Deb Haaland to serve as the Secretary of the Department of the Interior

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources:

I am writing on behalf of Native Peoples Action and Native Peoples Action Community Fund, two Indigenous led sibling non-profit organizations that work to uplift Indigenous voices across Alaska. We take direction and work with our Tribes and community leaders, and it is with this responsibility and gratitude that we would like to express our support for the nomination of Representative Deb Haaland to serve as the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

It is our honor to uplift and support Representative Haaland of Laguna Pueblo. We have seen her growth in leadership and wholeheartedly believe that she is highly qualified to lead the Department of the Interior, which is responsible for carrying out the United States' trust responsibilities with Tribal nations and managing public lands. Native Peoples Action strongly supports Representative Haaland and trusts that she understands Tribal issues and will be able to lead the Department of the Interior in a way that no one else can. If confirmed by the Senate, Representative Haaland would be the first Indigenous person to serve as a Cabinet secretary, a designation which is long overdue.

Representative Haaland has demonstrated her commitment to issues within the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction. As we've seen during her first term, she served as the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources; Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands; Co-Chair of the House

Native American Caucus; and as a member of the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples. In these roles, Representative Haaland had integral roles in enacting broad-reaching legislation, such as the Great American Outdoors Act, as well as numerous Tribal bills.

Last Congress, Representative Haaland sponsored nearly 40 bills, half of which fell under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Natural Resources, which oversees the Department of the Interior. These bills included legislation to combat the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) crisis, address the lack of broadband in Tribal communities, expand Tribal self-governance, strengthen the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and to support Native American businesses. Three of these bills were enacted into law— the Not Invisible Act, the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, and the Native American Business Incubators Program Act.

Representative Haaland’s leadership on Tribal and environmental issues has been quite remarkable in the House of Representatives, and she has the qualifications to be an amazingly effective Secretary of the Interior. Native Peoples Action and Native Peoples Action Community Fund stands behind her fully and encourages the Committee to approve the nomination of Representative Deb Haaland to serve as the Secretary of the Interior and then urge the full Senate to confirm her nomination.

We value her contribution and support her growth in leadership and look forward to the confirmation of her nomination as this is the change that we need in our Country, to move forward together with the strength of our diversity and inclusion.

Respectfully,



Kendra Kloster
Executive Director
Native Peoples Action &
Native Peoples Action Community Fund



cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski

Senator Dan Sullivan

Representative Don Young