

December 3, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
Biden-Harris Transition  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Nomination of Rep. Debra Haaland for Secretary of the Interior**

Dear President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.,

On behalf of our organization and the millions of members and supporters they represent, we write to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Rep. Debra Haaland for Secretary of the Interior. When confirmed, Rep. Haaland would be the first Indigenous person to run any Cabinet-level Department in our nation's history. Given the Department of the Interior's trustee obligations to Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiians and Native Alaskans — a trust responsibility that the Department has fallen short on far too many times — nominating Rep. Haaland is a vital step towards reforming all of the agencies within the Department of the Interior to meet those obligations, making each agency more just and equitable, fully protecting the interests of Indigenous Peoples, and importantly, making the Department a true long-term steward of our nation's most precious resources.

As chairperson of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, Rep. Haaland is fully qualified, capable and ready to become the 54<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Interior. For the last two years, she has fought against the destructive acts and policies of the Trump Administration and the lawless acts of Secretary David Bernhardt. She understands the urgency to act quickly to repair the damage caused by the Trump Administration, she understands the critical need to reform the Department to ensure that these abuses never occur again, and she understands the need to swiftly implement bold policies to address the most pressing challenges our public lands and waters face—the climate emergency and the extinction crisis.

Rep. Haaland has shown visionary leadership in Congress. She is the original House sponsor of the Resolution to conserve 30 percent of all U.S. lands and waters by 2030,<sup>1</sup> she sponsored the Climate Stewardship Act of 2019,<sup>2</sup> the Antiquities Act of 2019,<sup>3</sup> the Environmental Justice Legacy Pollution Cleanup Act of 2020,<sup>4</sup> as well as dozens of bills to improve the safety and well-being of Indigenous people across the United States. She has supported legislative efforts to strengthen environmental justice, protect our air and water from pollution, keep people safe from dangerous pesticides, protect endangered species, and strengthen the conservation management of our public lands, waters and oceans.

Rep. Haaland is a 35<sup>th</sup> generation New Mexican, and an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna. She is the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party, where as

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<sup>1</sup> H. RES. 835

<sup>2</sup> H.R. 4269

<sup>3</sup> H.R. 1050

<sup>4</sup> H.R. 8271

Chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico, she focused her efforts on building political power in Indigenous communities that are too often taken for granted during the electoral process. She physically stood with other Indigenous Peoples at Standing Rock protesting the illegal and immoral acts of the Trump Administration and State officials to protect the sovereign rights of tribal nations and fight against the avarice and greed of the fossil fuel industry. In 2018, Rep. Haaland became one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress, and immediately assumed a leadership role in both the Democratic and Progressive Caucuses.

Simply put, Rep. Haaland's accomplishments throughout her life and career are simply extraordinary and a role model for anyone who wants to bring positive change to this country.

We can think of no better person to run the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

350.org  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Climate Justice Alliance  
Dēmos  
Food & Water Action  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Greenpeace USA  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Oil Change U.S.  
Sunrise Movement  
Western Watersheds Project  
WildEarth Guardians

Additional Signers:

198 methods  
350 Triangle  
Action Center on Race and the Economy  
Alaska Institute for Climate & Energy  
Amazon Watch  
Animal Protection League of New Jersey  
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.  
Animas Valley Institute  
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism  
Bark  
Bat Conservation International  
Battle Creek Alliance/ Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue  
Berkeley Partners for Parks  
Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)  
Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project  
Bold Alliance

Bold Nebraska  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
Call to Action Colorado  
Catholic Network US  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Ciudadanos Del Karso  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Coastal Plains Institute  
Common Defense  
Conservation Council For Hawaii  
Dolphin Connection  
DNC Council on Environment and Climate Crisis  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earthworks  
Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Endangered small animal Conservation fund  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
Faithful America  
GARDEN, Inc.  
Georgia Botanical Society  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
GreenLatinos  
Having Kids, Inc.  
Heartwood  
Howling For Wolves  
Iowa Environmental Council  
In Defense of Animals  
In the Shadow of the Wolf  
Jews of the Earth, a project of Ayztim  
The Juggernaut Project  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper  
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Malama Makua  
Massachusetts Forest Watch  
Michigan People's Campaign  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
Movement Rights  
National Children's Campaign  
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Assoc.  
New Hampshire Youth Movement  
North Dakota Native Vote

Northeast Oregon Ecosystems  
Oceanic Preservation Society  
One More Generation  
Organic Consumers Association  
Our Revolution  
Pacific Environment  
Pesticide Free Zone  
Poder Latinx  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Rainforest Action Network  
Rapid Shift Network  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
Sacred Pipe Resource Center  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Diego Coastkeeper  
Sciencecorps  
Sequoia ForestKeeper  
Seventh Generation  
South Florida Wildlands Association  
Sustainable Arizona  
Takoma Alliance for Local Living Economy (TALLE)  
The Climate Mobilization  
The River Project  
Toxic Free NC  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
WEACT for Environmental Justice  
Wild Nature Institute  
Wildcoast  
Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network