

February 16, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

We the undersigned organizations representing millions of supporters and members write to enthusiastically support the historic nomination of Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM-1), a 35th generation New Mexican and enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna, for/as the Secretary for the Department of the Interior (DOI). If confirmed, Rep. Haaland would be the first Native American to lead the Department and the first Native American Cabinet Secretary in our nation's history. As Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and Chair of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands subcommittee, Rep. Haaland is a proven leader and the right person to lead the charge against the existential threats of our time – tackling the climate, biodiversity, extinction and COVID-19 crises, and racial justice inequities on our Federal public lands and waters.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for managing 500 million acres of our shared public lands, waters, wildlife, and natural resources, as well as offshore energy and mineral resources. The department is also responsible for upholding the Federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities to Native American tribes, including managing more than 55 million acres of lands held in trust for Native Americans by the government. Over the last four years alone, the previous administration routinely neglected to properly consult tribal governments before proceeding with fossil fuel development projects, land management plans, lease sales, and rulemakings that degraded air and water quality across the nation. Given DOI's track record of failing to consult with Tribes or engage with Indigenous communities while enacting public lands policies against the better interests of Indigenous people, Rep. Haaland's confirmation would be both an historic and much-needed step toward reckoning with a long and troubling legacy while building new, lasting, equitable achievements. After centuries of failed promises and broken treaties it is beyond time for the federal government to chart a new future for the relationship between land management agencies and Tribal nations. Respecting tribal sovereignty and obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Tribes by engaging in meaningful consultation on a direct nation-to-nation basis, is imperative, and we are confident that Secretary-designee Haaland's experience makes her the perfect candidate to lead this change.

Climate change is one of the most universal environmental and social justice issues of our time. As countries around the world ramp up efforts to address climate change, here in the United States, our public lands waters, and oceans provide an immediate opportunity for the federal government to act on climate change. Yet, millions of acres of federal public lands and waters in the United States – parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, deserts and grasslands, and offshore submerged lands –only a fraction are managed for their community, climate and ecosystem benefits, and the Trump Administration's reckless leasing and drilling agenda has left our lands, waters, coasts, wildlife, communities, and climate at risk. For frontline communities, climate change is not a distant threat, but a very present one. The recent onset of a global health pandemic has magnified the interdependence of healthy ecosystems and human life, and the disproportionate burdens faced by Indigenous, Black and communities of color. As we continue to face the devastating impacts of COVID-19, it is vital that we get to work restoring our public lands and waters, and create clean energy jobs in order to curb the pollution that exacerbated COVID symptoms, especially for frontline communities and communities of color. Rep. Haaland's committee experience has allowed her to build a deep understanding of the complex portfolios under the Department's purview, and well positions her to hit the ground running on these critical issues. As our public lands and waters are the first best place to start, Rep. Haaland will be able to utilize agency resources to deploy sustainable renewable energy jobs and ensure frontline communities are central to an economic transition. Any economic recovery plan ought to

prioritize a clean energy transition in order to create family-sustaining jobs and start us on the path of combating climate change.

Shadowing the climate crises and injustices committed on our public lands lies a history of systemic racism and inequity toward Native Americans, communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community and many others. The Secretary will be tasked with rebuilding the agency in an intentional way that reflects the diverse demographics of our country, creating more equal opportunity for all Americans to enjoy our public lands and waters, and rooting out sexism, racism and white supremacy from the people and systems which govern our national parks, refuges, forests and making them a place where all Americans can see themselves reflected in our shared history and welcomed on our shared public lands. In recent years, communities of color and minority groups have repeatedly experienced violence at the hands of the those tasked with protecting the public. From the tasing of Darrell House at Petroglyph National Monument, to crowds of peaceful protestors in Lafayette Square being violently attacked, to the deaths of Charles Lorentz and Bijan Ghaisar, these violent, and in some cases deadly, incidents evidence a disturbing pattern of excessive use of force and failure of oversight by the National Park Service. As Secretary, Rep. Haaland will ensure proper reforms are enacted for all DOI law enforcement activities, and all people are afforded safe, equitable access to our public lands.

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the outdoors has taken on a whole new importance. Parks and our shared public lands are where we turn for exercise, fresh air, and finding respite from the anxiety and grief of this pandemic. But in too many communities, parks are too few and far between, unwelcoming, under-resourced, or unsafe. Elsewhere, open space is blocked by locked gates and “No Trespassing” signs. Just as America’s great outdoors have never been more in demand than they are during the pandemic, the consequences of park inequities—for our health, resilience, and prosperity—have never been more acute. COVID-19 is a wake-up call: the time to address the long-standing gaps in outdoor access and quality has come. Fortunately, Rep. Haaland understands the impact of the injustices across an array of communities and is dedicated to restoring equity and justice to all people on our public lands.

With a groundbreaking team of Administration nominations and appointments, President Biden and Vice President Harris are poised to begin immediately to fulfill their promise to prioritize climate and act to protect our health and secure a livable future on this planet. As Interior Secretary, Rep. Haaland will be a passionate advocate for climate and biodiversity action stewarding public lands and conserving them for future generations. We strongly urge you to support rapid confirmation of Rep. Haaland as a highly qualified nominee.

Sincerely,

#NoRA
350 Butte County
350 Colorado
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Merced
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley
350 Tacoma
350 Triangle
350Hawaii

350Mono.org
5 Gyres Institute
7th Generation Advisors
Accountable.US
Action Center on Race and the Economy
Active San Gabriel Valley
Alaska Wilderness League
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
All About Adventure
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
Alliance for Latinx Leadership & Policy
Amazon Watch
American Alpine Club
American Camp Association
American Canoe Association (ACA)
American Federation of Teachers
American Horse Protection Society
American Rivers
American Trails
American University, Washington College of Law, Native American Law Students Association
(NALSA))
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Americans for Indian Opportunity
Amigos de los Rios
Animal Wellness Action
Animal Wellness Foundation
Appalachian Mountain Club
Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Faith Network
Arizona Trail Association
Arroyo Hondo Land Trust
Association for Experiential Education
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Audubon Alaska
Audubon Southwest
Avid4 Adventure
Azul
Basin and Range Watch
Bat Conservation International
Battle Born Progress
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Beyond Extreme Energy
Black Girl Environmentalist
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance
Black Millennials 4 Flint
Blue Frontier
Blue Turtle Lodge
Bold Alliance

Born Free USA
Brown Girl Surf
Bucks Environmental Action
Buffalo Field Campaign
Business Coalition for Conservation and Climate
California League of Conservation Voters
California Native Plant Society
California Wilderness Coalition
Californians for Western Wilderness
Call to Action CO
Camp White Pine
Cascade Forest Conservancy
Cascadia Wildlands
Catholic Divestment Network
Catholic Network US
CAVU
Center for a Humane Economy
Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Disability Rights
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Center For Sustainable Economy
Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition
Change The Chamber
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chispa Arizona
Christians For The Mountains
Clean Air Moms Action
Clean Energy Action - Colorado
Clean Water Action
Climate Change Leadership Institute
Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice at Boston College
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Reality Project
Climate Trace
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Coastal Plains Institute
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Colorado Chapter - Inland Ocean Coalition
Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate
Colorado Democratic Party Energy & Environment Initiative
Colorado Farm and Food Alliance
Colorado Wildlands Project
Colorado Youth Corps Association
Common Defense
Common Ground Rising
Community for Sustainable Energy
Community Studio

Congregation Beth El, Bangor, Maine
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Minnesota
Conservation Northwest
Conservation Voters for Idaho
Conservation Voters New Mexico
Conserve Southwest Utah
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Corazon Latino
Courage California
Critica
CT League of Conservation Voters
Dakota Resource Council
Data for Progress
Decolonizing UMaine
Defend Our Future
Defend Our Health
Defenders of Wildlife
Defiende Nuestra Tierra
DemCast USA
Democracy for America
Desert Survivors
Devil's Spring Ranch
Diné C.A.R.E.
DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council
Down to Earth Storytelling
E3 Washington
Earth Care/Poder Familiar
Earth Ethics Action
Earth Ethics, Inc
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Earth Day.org
Earthjustice
Earthworks
EcoFlight
Ecotopia
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Elders Climate Action
Endangered Small Animal Conservation fund
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental League of MA
Episcopal Committee on Indian Relations
Equality California
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Eyak Preservation Council
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Faithful America
Fire Drill Fridays
Florida Conservation Voters
Food and Water Watch
Fort Collins Sustainability Group
Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard
FracTracker Alliance
Freshwater Future
Friends (Quaker) Committee on Maine Public Policy
Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of Black Rock High Rock
Friends of Casco Bay
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of Sloan Canyon
Friends of the Amargosa Basin
Friends of the Desert Mountain
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
Friends of the San Juans
FRIENDS OF THE SAN PEDRO RIVER INC
FRIENDS OF THE WI WOLF AND WILDLIFE
Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Walking Box Ranch
GASP
Georgia Conservation Voters
Gila Resources Information Project
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
GREAT LAKES WILDLIFE ALLIANCE
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Bozeman Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness – California Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Grand Junction Area Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - NorCal Broads Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness - NWCO Chapter
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Green America
Green The Church
Greenbrier River Watershed Association
GreenFaith
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy
Harambee House, Inc.
Heal the Bay
Healthy Oceans Coalition

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hiking and the Outdoors (HECHO)
High Country Conservation Advocates
Hispanic Access Foundation
Honor the Earth
Horses For Life Foundation
Howard County Democrats
Idaho Conservation League
Illinois Environmental Council
Impact Hub Salt Lake
IndigiCANN
Indivisible
Indivisible CA-43
Indivisible San Francisco
Information Network for Responsible Mining
Inland Ocean Coalition
Inland Ocean Coalition, Washington, D.C. Chapter
Inland Ocean Coalition, Wyoming Chapter
Interfaith Power & Light
Interfaith Power & Light - Arizona
Interfaith Power & Light - California
Interfaith Power & Light - Delaware
Interfaith Power & Light - Iowa
Interfaith Power & Light - Kentucky
Interfaith Power & Light - Missouri
Interfaith Power & Light - Montana
Interfaith Power & Light - New Hampshire
Interfaith Power & Light - New Mexico
Interfaith Power & Light - North Carolina
Interfaith Power & Light - Oregon
Interfaith Power & Light - Tennessee
Interfaith Power & Light - West Virginia
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
INYO350
Irving Impact
Jamul Indian Village of California
JAPRI.ORG
Kids for Saving Earth
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Lambda Law Society
Lamirault Consulting
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce
Latino Outdoors
LEAD Agency, Inc.
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens
Liveable Arlington
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Los Padres ForestWatch
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center
Maine Conservation Voters

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardener Association (MOFGA)
Maine Rivers
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
Mainers for Accountable leadership
Malach Consulting
March For Science
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Mattole Restoration Council / King Range Alliance
Methow Valley Citizens Council
Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women's Advocacy Group of North Carolina
MIT Alumni for Climate Action
MN350
Mojave Desert Land Trust
MomsRising
Montana Conservation Voters
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Movement Rights
Mystic Aquarium
National Audubon Society
National Employment Law Project
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Recreation and Park Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Women's Law Center
Native American Land Conservancy
Native Movement
Native Women Lead
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature For All
NAVA Education Project
NC Alliance to Protect the People and the Places We Live
Nevada Conservation League
New Energy Economy
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Mexico Asian Family Center
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
New Mexico Sportsmen
New Mexico Wild
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
North Carolina Council of Churches

North County Watch
North Dakota Native Vote
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Northern California Recovery association
Northern Colorado Community Rights Network
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northridge Indivisible
Northwest Heritage Resources
Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
NY4WHALES
Occupy Democrats
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Research
Oceana
Oceanic Preservation Society
Oil Change U.S.
Operation HomeCare, Inc.
Orca Network
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Organic Consumers Association
Our Revolution Minnesota
Outdoor Advocacy Project
Outdoor Afro
Outdoor Alliance California
Pacific Environment
Pacific Rivers
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Partnership for Responsible Business
Patagonia
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
People Demanding Action
People's Action
Physicians for Responsibility - NM Chapter
Pivot Pivot, A Nonprofit Corporation
PNM Shareholders for a Responsible Future
Portneuf Resource Council
Power Shift Network
Pride Outside
Progressive Democrats of America
ProgressNow New Mexico
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Pueblo Action Alliance
QueerBrownVegan
Quiet Use Coalition
Rapid Shift Network
Red-Horse Financial Group, Inc.

RESTORE: The North Woods
Rio Grande Indivisible, New Mexico
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rocky Mountain Wild
Rural Utah Project
Sachamama
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (S.A.F.E.)
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
San Miguel County
Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce
Save Our Shores
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition
Save Red Rock
Save Red Rock Canyon Community Development Corporation
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
SEE-LA
SEED
Seeding Sovereignty
Seven Circles Foundation
Seven Generations
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Club
Sierra Club of West Virginia
Sierra Forest Legacy
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sky Island Alliance
Social Security Works
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
SOS Outreach
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC)
Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Environmental Center
Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic
SRI Foundation
Stand.earth
Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic (SODA)
Sunrise Movement
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network
Sustaining Way
TakeAction Minnesota
TAO
TEWA WOMEN UNITED
The Alaska Center
The Alliance for Appalachia
The Center for Climate Integrity
The Chaparral Lands Conservancy

The CLEO Institute
The Climate Mobilization
The Conservation Fund
The Corps Network
The Evangelical Environmental Network
The Global W.E./Global Warming Express
The John Muir Project
The Lands Council
The Mountain Pact
The Ocean Project
The Ohio Environmental Council
The Rewilding Institute
The Story of Stuff Project
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Conservancy
The Years Project
Trustees for Alaska
Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC)
Tuleyome
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unite North Metro Denver
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Upper Uwchlan Residents for Safety
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermonters for a Clean Environment
Veterans for Peace
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
VitaleTherapeutics, Inc.
Wabash Riverkeeper Network
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington Office on Latin America
Washington Wild
Washtenaw350
Waterkeeper Alliance
Watershed Protection Advocates of Northwest Montana
Watershed Research & Training Center
Weise Consulting
West Virginia Environmental Council
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
West Virginia Wilderness Coalition
Western Colorado Alliance
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Leaders Network
Western Native Voice
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Western Resource Advocates
Western Watersheds Project
Whale and Dolphin Conservation

WILD

Wild Connections

WildEarth Guardians

Wilderness Inquiry

Wilderness Workshop

Wildlands Network

Wildlife Alliance of Maine

Winter Wildlands Alliance

Wisconsin Conservation Voters

Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)

Women's Environment and Development Organization

Wyoming Outdoor Council

Yaak Valley Forest Council

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection

YUCCA - Youth United for Climate Crisis Action

Zero Hour