



National Indian Health Board



Chairman Joe Manchin  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
SD-304  
Washington, DC, 20510

Ranking Member John Barrasso  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
SD-304  
Washington, DC, 20510



Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

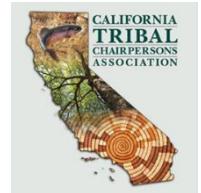
On behalf of our undersigned organizations, we state our unequivocal support for the confirmation of Congresswoman Deb Halaand as the next Secretary of the Interior. Congresswoman Haaland is a citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna and, if confirmed, will be the first Native person to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior and the first to hold a Cabinet-level position. The Department of the Interior is charged with the execution of critical parts of the trust obligation to Tribal Nations, historic preservation, and the management of a majority of federal lands. Each of its agencies has responsibilities to our governments and our people, and Congresswoman Haaland will provide critical leadership and insight to improve the Department's operations and obligations to Indian Country.



This is a historic moment for Indian Country and represents significant progress in the evolution of our nation-to-nation relationship with the United States. The nomination of Congresswoman Haaland sends a powerful message to Tribal Nations and Native people—one of regard, honor, affirmation, and visibility. For too long, Native experiences, perspective, understanding, and voices have been largely invisible or fundamentally misrepresented in public discourse. Too often, we are a forgotten people in our own homelands. For these reasons, and many others, the importance of this nomination cannot be overstated. As Secretary of the Interior, Congresswoman Haaland will ensure that Tribal Nations are represented at the highest levels of government, including through direct dialogue with the President and his Cabinet. In doing so, we are confident that her voice will serve to improve and strengthen our relationship with the United States.



Congresswoman Haaland's unique, lived experiences and work with Tribal Nations will be critical in evolving the Department. She has both a full appreciation for our diplomatic relationship with the federal government, as well as an indigenous sensibility to the stewardship of our lands, environment, and cultural resources. This includes an appreciation for the Traditional Ecological Knowledge held by Tribal Nations. We are confident that her service will be transformative for the Department, for Indian Country, and for all Americans.



Over the years, Tribal Nations and organizations have had the distinct pleasure of working with Congresswoman Haaland on several issues of critical importance to Indian Country. As a Native woman she carries an innate knowledge of our history and challenges, and she is passionate about formulating solutions to right historic wrongs. As an advocate for Indian Country, Congresswoman Haaland has proven time and again that she is dedicated to improving the livelihood of Native people and she will bring that same dedication to a department with critical trust obligations to Tribal Nations.



Congresswoman Haaland's leadership as the Secretary of the Interior will translate into beneficial outcomes that promote Tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination.

Our organizations stand in unity behind our full support for Congresswoman Haaland as the next Secretary of the Interior. We call upon the United States Senate to act swiftly on her confirmation in accordance with its responsibility to honor its obligations to Tribal Nations.

Sincerely,



Kirk Francis (Penobscot)  
President  
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund



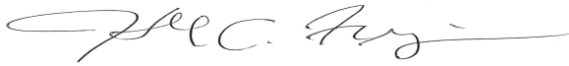
Leonard Forsman (Suquamish)  
President  
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians



Crystal Echohawk (Pawnee)  
Executive Director  
IllumiNative



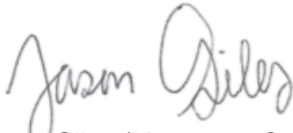
Sarah EchoHawk (Pawnee)  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Indian Science and Engineering Society



Chairman Harold Frazier (Cheyenne River Sioux)  
Chairman  
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc.



Esther Lucero (Diné), MPP  
President & CEO  
Seattle Indian Health Board



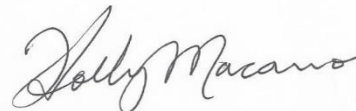
Jason Giles (Muscogee Creek)  
Executive Director  
National Indian Gaming Association



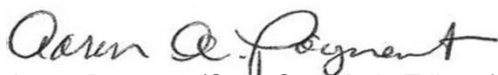
W. Ron Allen  
Tribal Chairman/CEO, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
and President, Board of Directors, Self-  
Governance Communication & Education Tribal  
Consortium



Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa)  
President  
Association on American Indian Affairs



Holly Macarro (Red Lake Band of Ojibwe)  
President  
American Indian Graduate Center



Aaron Payment (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians)  
President  
United Tribes of Michigan



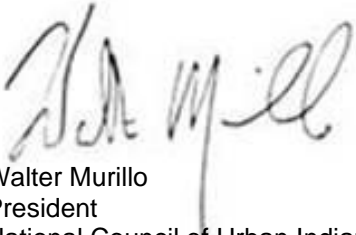
Aaron Payment (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians)  
President  
Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes



Laura Harris (Comanche)  
Executive Director  
Americans for Indian Opportunity



Fawn Sharp (Quinault)  
President  
National Congress of American Indians



Walter Murillo  
President  
National Council of Urban Indian Health



Maria Dadger  
Executive Director  
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona




William Smith (Valdez Native Tribe)  
Chairman  
National Indian Health Board



Dante Desiderio (Sappony)  
Executive Director  
Native American Finance Officers Association



Wilfred Herrera (Laguna)  
Chairman  
All Pueblo Council of Governors



Lynn Valbuena (San Manuel Band of Mission  
Indians)  
Chairwoman  
Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations



Bo Mazzetti (Rincon Band of Liuseno)  
Chairman  
California Tribal Chairpersons Association