

Dear USET SPF Board of Directors and DC Tribal Reps,

For your awareness, please be advised that earlier this week USET SPF drafted and coordinated the submission of a [joint letter](#) from 21 Tribal organizations in support of Congresswoman Haaland's confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. Despite strong support for her within Indian Country and beyond, there are those working to convince Senators to vote against her confirmation. With the slimmest of Democratic majorities in the Senate, this could jeopardize her ability to advocate for our interests at the highest levels of government as a member of the President's cabinet.

Over time, Indian Country has proven to be at its most formidable when we speak with one voice. In the spirit of our motto, "Because there is Strength in Unity," we asked organizational partners to join us on a letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. We view this letter as an opportunity to show the U.S. Senate that Tribal Nations stand united behind a candidate for Secretary of the Interior who will most certainly serve to improve and strengthen our relationship with the United States. Her ability to improve the delivery of trust obligations to Tribal Nations should be the primary focus as her confirmation is considered.

USET SPF will continue to monitor the status of Congresswoman Haaland's confirmation, including the scheduling of a hearing at ENR, and will provide further updates as they develop.

Thank you,
Liz Malerba ~ *Citizen of the Mohegan Tribe*
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)

From: Brian Howard <bhoward@usetinc.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:36 AM

Subject: USET SPF Action Alert: Letter of Support for Congresswoman Deb Haaland as Next Secretary of the Interior

Dear USET SPF Membership,

On January 27, 2021, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund sent a [letter of support](#) [link] to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for the confirmation of Congresswoman Deb Haaland as the next Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Congresswoman Haaland is a citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna and was one of the first Native women elected to Congress in 2019 representing New Mexico Congressional District 1. President Biden has nominated Congresswoman Haaland to be Secretary of the Interior and, if confirmed by the Senate, she would be the first Native person to lead the department and the first to hold a Cabinet-level position.

Over the years, USET SPF has 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.

Before Congresswoman Haaland can serve as the Secretary of the Interior, the Senate must vote on her confirmation. With the possibility of opposition to her confirmation, it is critically important that she receive a strong showing of support from Tribal Nations. All members of the U.S. Senate must understand the importance of this confirmation and its implications for the delivery of the trust obligation.

USET SPF encourages its Tribal Nation Membership to also send letters of support to their Senate Delegations for the confirmation of Congresswoman Haaland's appointment as Secretary of the Interior. To download a sample template letter to send to your Senate Delegation, [click here](#) [link].

To find office contact information for your Senate Delegations, please visit the "[Senators of the 117th Congress](#)" contact page [linked].

Thank You,

Brian Howard
~*Akimel O'odham* - Citizen of the Gila River Indian Community
Senior Policy Analyst
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)