



The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES



June 4, 2021

Chairman Brian Schatz
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairman Lisa Murkowski
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Vice Chairman Murkowski,

On behalf of our undersigned organizations, we state our unequivocal support for the confirmation of Bryan Newland, a citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), to be the next Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (AS-IA). The AS-IA plays a critical role in elevating the voices of Indian Country, as well as delivering upon the federal government’s trust responsibility and obligations. The position’s responsibilities include advising the Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs policy issues and overseeing the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.

Mr. Newland has spent his career fighting for Tribal rights, becoming a trusted voice in the field of federal Indian law. He would bring a wealth of experience to the role of Assistant Secretary, having served most recently as the President of the Bay Mills Indian Community, as well as Chief Judge of the Bay Mills Tribal court and counselor and Senior Advisor to the AS-IA during the Obama Administration. His background provides him with a unique perspective on matters of Tribal self-governance and the delivery of federal trust and treaty obligations. Our collective organizations celebrate this nomination as another opportunity to advance Tribal sovereignty and improve the relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations.

Mr. Newland knows first-hand the challenges we face, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead for us as sovereign governments. We know him to be fair, knowledgeable, and passionately committed to justice for our people and the advancement of the U.S.-Tribal Nation diplomatic relationship. At a time when America is reckoning with its past, Mr. Newland is the right person to meet this moment and deliver meaningful change for Indian Country.

As a former Tribal Leader, Mr. Newland’s intimate understanding of both Tribal and federal service will be an asset to the Department of the Interior and its role in Nation-to-Nation diplomacy with Indian Country. Like Secretary Haaland, Mr. Newland holds a full appreciation for our history and relationship with the United States, as well as an indigenous sensibility for the stewardship of our lands,

environment, and cultural resources. We are confident that Mr. Newland's service as AS-IA will bring significant progress in Tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination.

Our organizations stand in unity and offer our full support for Mr. Bryan Newland as the next Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (AS-IA). We call upon the United States Senate to act swiftly on his confirmation in accordance with its responsibility to honor its obligations to Tribal Nations.

Sincerely,



Kirk Francis (Penobscot)
President
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund



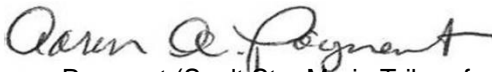
Fawn Sharp (Quinault)
President
National Congress of American Indians



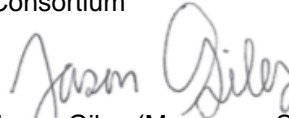
Chairman Harold Frazier (Cheyenne River Sioux)
Chairman
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc



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



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



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



Aaron Payment (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians)
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.



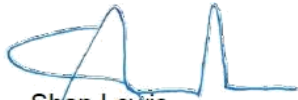
William F. Snell, Jr. (Crow/Assiniboine)
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council



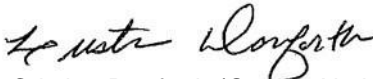
Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa)
President
Association on American Indian Affairs



Leonard Forsman (Suquamish)
President
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians



Shan Lewis
President, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona
Vice Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe



Cristina Danforth (Oneida Nation)
President
Native American Finance Officers Association



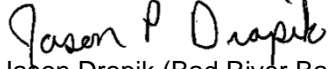
Chuck Hoskin, Jr. (Cherokee)
President
Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes



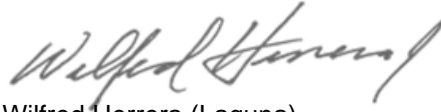
Adrian Stevens (Seneca Nation)
Acting Chairperson
National American Indian Housing Council



Laura Harris (Comanche)
Executive Director
Americans for Indian Opportunity



Jason Dropik (Bad River Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians)
President
National Indian Education Association



Wilfred Herrera (Laguna)
Chairman
All Pueblo Council of Governors