

**Arizona Wildlife Federation • Arkansas Wildlife Federation • Association of Northwest Steelheaders • Colorado Wildlife Federation • Connecticut Forest and Park Association • Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma • Conservation Council for Hawaii • Conservation Federation of Missouri • Conservation Northwest • Delaware Nature Society • Environmental Advocates of New York • Environmental Council of Rhode Island • Environmental League of Massachusetts • Florida Wildlife Federation • Georgia Wildlife Federation • Idaho Wildlife Federation • Indiana Wildlife Federation • Iowa Wildlife Federation • Kansas Wildlife Federation • Kentucky Waterways Alliance • Minnesota Conservation Federation • Mississippi Wildlife Federation • Montana Wildlife Federation • National Aquarium • National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Council of Maine • Nebraska Wildlife Federation • Nevada Wildlife Federation • New Hampshire Audubon • New Jersey Audubon • New Mexico Wildlife Federation • North Carolina Wildlife Federation • North Dakota Wildlife Federation • PennFuture • Planning and Conservation League • Prairie Rivers Network • Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña • Southeast Alaska Conservation Council • Tennessee Wildlife Federation • Texas Conservation Alliance • Vermont Natural Resources Council • Virgin Islands Conservation Society • West Virginia Rivers Coalition • Wisconsin Wildlife Federation • Wyoming Wildlife Federation**

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

The U.S. Department of the Interior plays a critical role in conserving and restoring America's treasured public lands, wildlife, and way of life. It also is responsible for upholding the United States' treaty obligations to Native American and Indigenous Tribes and communities. At a time when America's wildlife and our outdoor heritage face unprecedented challenges from the changing climate, energy development, wildfires and disasters, and past management decisions, U.S. Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico is the right leader to lead the Interior Department in realizing President Joe Biden's bold conservation agenda.

We represent the National Wildlife Federation and 45 state and territorial affiliates. We are proud to support Rep. Haaland's nomination and believe she will be an unwavering advocate for wildlife and people alike.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the vice chair of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Haaland has been a strong advocate for wildlife, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts. She played a leading role in passing the Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund — a critical program to ensure all Americans can access public lands to hunt, fish, hike, and recreate. She helped pass the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation Management Act, and the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act, which expanded wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. She is also an original co-sponsor of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

In addition, Rep. Haaland has demonstrated that she understands the importance of reaching across the aisle to conserve our natural and cultural resources. She was one of the leading House lawmakers in

securing Republican co-sponsors on bills she introduced. For example, she worked with U.S. Representative John Curtis (R-Utah) to introduce the Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act, which would make outdoor recreation more accessible while creating jobs in the outdoor recreation industry.

As the first Native American Secretary of the Interior, Rep. Haaland will bring a crucial new perspective and dedication to ensure the federal government fulfills its Tribal treaty obligations and commitments. Her legislative record alone underscores her approach: She introduced the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act, a bipartisan bill signed into law by President Trump, that affirms the right to self-governance for tribes across the country. She also sponsored legislation to create an advisory committee composed of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and survivors to make recommendations to the Department of Interior and Department of Justice and provide best practices in combating violent crime in Tribal and Indigenous communities.

As a Westerner, Rep. Haaland understands the myriad of challenges and opportunities facing public lands: from increased recreation pressures, to the potential role they will play in storing carbon, to the cultural importance they hold, to their role in providing critical wildlife habitat, to the need for responsible development. As a 35th generation New Mexican, Rep. Haaland also understands the importance of creating opportunities for all people to access America's public lands and the need for strong stewardship of these lands for future generations.

Rep. Haaland is uniquely qualified to serve as the 54th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. In this role, she will oversee critical large-scale ecosystem restoration efforts across the nation, as well as responsible offshore wind development. These important priorities make it all the more critical that she be confirmed quickly.

The U.S. Senate should swiftly take up her nomination and confirm her, so she can get to work conserving and restoring our beloved wildlife and public lands, bring balance back to public lands management, expand access to these lands for hunters, anglers, and all who enjoy the outdoors, and revitalize our nation's commitment to working with Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities.

The challenges our public lands, wildlife, and outdoor heritage face are too important for any delays.

Sincerely,

Arizona Wildlife Federation

Conservation Council for Hawaii

Arkansas Wildlife Federation

Conservation Federation of Missouri

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Conservation Northwest

Colorado Wildlife Federation

Delaware Nature Society

Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Environmental Advocates of New York

Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma

Environmental Council of Rhode Island

Environmental League of Massachusetts

Florida Wildlife Federation

Georgia Wildlife Federation

Idaho Wildlife Federation

Indiana Wildlife Federation

Iowa Wildlife Federation

Kansas Wildlife Federation

Kentucky Waterways Alliance

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Montana Wildlife Federation

National Aquarium

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Nebraska Wildlife Federation

New Hampshire Audubon

New Jersey Audubon

New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Nevada Wildlife Federation

North Carolina Wildlife Federation

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

PennFuture

Planning and Conservation League

Prairie Rivers Network

Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña

South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

Texas Conservation Alliance

Vermont Natural Resources Council

Virgin Islands Conservation Society

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation