

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Biden-Harris Transition
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-elect Biden,

We congratulate you on your historic victory and are excited to work with you to build a more just, resilient, and sustainable nation. We greatly appreciate your commitment to building a Cabinet that reflects the diversity of America, and we strongly recommend that you nominate our colleague Representative Deb Haaland, a congresswoman from New Mexico and an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna, as to serve as your Secretary of the Interior.

The Department of the Interior is charged with the management of our national parks, wildlife refuges, and public lands consisting of nearly twenty percent of the nation. It also coordinates the government-to-government relationships with federal recognized Native Nations, holds trust title to more than 56 million acres of lands for tribal nations, and works with tribes to provide services ranging from education to law enforcement to economic development. The Secretary of the Interior will play a leading role in carrying out your administration's environmental and climate policies and managing its relationship with tribal nations, and you should choose a nominee who has a deep understanding of and connection to these important responsibilities.

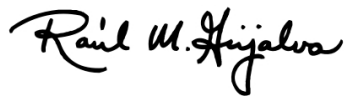
In 2018, Representative Haaland was one of the first two Native American women ever elected to Congress, and she would be the first Native American Cabinet Secretary in our nation's history. She has significant experience working and living in Indian Country, having served Native communities as a tribal administrator and an organizer fighting for tribal voting rights. In her short time in Congress, she has distinguished herself as a respected leader within our Caucus.

Rep. Haaland serves as the Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Committee and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, where she has been a champion for our environment and a leader in the fight against climate change. She has fought back against the destructive acts and policies of the Trump Administration. Under her leadership, historic public lands bills including the Great American Outdoors Act and the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation Management and Recreation Act became law, and she has introduced visionary

bills to deal with the climate extinction crisis. She first ran for Congress on a platform of combating climate change, and she continues to be a leader in this area.

Representative Deb Haaland is eminently qualified to be Interior Secretary. She has been a champion for our environment and public lands and has worked tirelessly to improve the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. By selecting her to be your Secretary of the Interior, you can make history by giving Native Americans a seat at the Cabinet table for the first time. We strongly recommend that you nominate Rep. Deb Haaland for this important role.

Sincerely,



Raul Grijalva
Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Kai Kahele
Member-Elect of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Greg Meeks
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Colin Alred
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



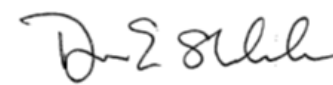
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



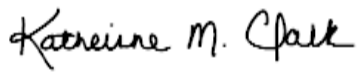
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



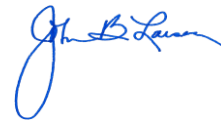
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

/s/

Mike Levin
Member of Congress