



February 19, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources, U.S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Representative Deb Haaland as Interior Secretary

Dear Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Manchin, and Ranking Member Barrasso:

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), representing the governor-designated State Energy Directors from the 56 States, Territories, and District of Columbia, strongly supports confirmation of U.S. Representative Deb Haaland as the nation's next Secretary of the Interior.

Congresswoman Haaland is uniquely qualified for the immense challenges that the U.S. Department of the Interior will need to navigate: protecting America's natural resources and cultures, developing energy resources in an environmentally sustainable manner, and bolstering community and economic resilience. On energy matters, Representative Haaland has embraced the crucial role that innovative clean energy infrastructure and technologies, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and data-driven policymaking can play in achieving the mission of the Department of the Interior. The fact that Congresswoman Haaland would be the first Native American to serve as Interior Secretary and Cabinet Secretary is a pivotal step for our nation and elevates historically underrepresented voices to improve the outcomes of policy discussions and decision-making processes.

NASEO looks forward to the opportunity to work with Representative Haaland and her teams at the Bureau of Land Management of Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to advance streamlined decision-making on energy infrastructure on federal lands and in federal waters. Through Representative Haaland's leadership, we hope to advance state-federal collaboration that can unlock billions of dollars of investments in clean, affordable energy infrastructure.

For these reasons, we urge you to rapidly advance Congresswoman Haaland's confirmation.

Best regards,

David Terry, Executive Director, NASEO

CC: State Energy Directors

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