



INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA, INC.

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BATTLE MOUNTAIN
BAND COUNCIL
CARSON COLONY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DRESSERVILLE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DUCK VALLEY
SHOSHONE-PAIUTE
BUSINESS COUNCIL
DUCKWATER
SHOSHONE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
ELKO BAND
COUNCIL
ELY SHOSHONE
COUNCIL
FALLON BUSINESS
COUNCIL
FT. McDERMIT
PAIUTE-SHOSHONE
TRIBES
GOSHUTE BAND
COUNCIL
LAS VEGAS PAIUTE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
LOVELOCK TRIBAL
COUNCIL
MOAPA BUSINESS
COUNCIL
PYRAMID LAKE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
RENO/SPARKS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
SOUTH FORK
BAND COUNCIL
STEWART
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SUMMIT LAKE
PAIUTE COUNCIL
TE-MOAK TRIBAL
COUNCIL
TIMBISHA SHOSHONE
TRIBE
WALKER RIVER
PAIUTE TRIBAL
COUNCIL
WASHOE TRIBAL
COUNCIL
WELLS BAND
COUNCIL
WINNEMUCCA
COLONY COUNCIL
WOODFORDS
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
YERINGTON PAIUTE
TRIBAL COUNCIL
YOMBA TRIBAL
COUNCIL

Dear Vice President Biden and Senator Harris,

We serve as elected leaders of sovereign tribal nations across America and are responsible for maintaining our Tribes' Nation-to-Nation relationship with the United States. As tribal leaders, we know that representation matters, and that it is important for people to have a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect their lives.

In the entire history of the United States, there has never been a Native American who has served as a Cabinet Secretary in our government. This includes the Department of the Interior, which has vast responsibilities in carrying out the Federal Government's trust obligation toward Indian tribes and Indian people. Your administration will have a historic opportunity to break down this barrier by appointing the first Native American as Secretary of the Interior.

From Standing Rock to the Black Lives Matter Movement, the coming together of America reflects Dr. King's vision of the arc of the moral universe bending toward justice. The Obama-Biden Administration's commitment to elevating Native voices bent that arc in a positive direction and helped prepare many Native Americans to serve at the highest levels of our government. A Biden-Harris Administration can take the next step.

The Secretary of the Interior plays a leading role in carrying-out environmental and climate policy and is responsible for a large share of the United States' relationship with tribal nations.

The Department of the Interior manages wildlife refuges, our iconic national park system, and public lands comprising nearly one-fifth of the land of the United States. It also holds trust title to more than 56 million acres of lands for tribal nations and works directly with 578 federally recognized Indian tribes on issues ranging from education and law enforcement to economic development and natural resource protection. The Department touches directly upon the lives of millions of our tribal citizens from Alaska to Florida, and everywhere in between.

As the leaders of sovereign tribal nations, we believe it is long past time that a Native American person serve as Secretary of the Interior.

Further, we believe that Congresswoman Deb Haaland is ready to serve as Secretary.

Rep. Haaland has already broken barriers by being one of the first two Native American women to serve in the U.S. Congress, alongside Rep. Sharice Davids. Rep. Haaland has championed the environment, helped lead efforts to address climate change, and worked to improve the nation-to-nation relationship between our Tribes and the United States – all issues within the Department of the Interior’s responsibilities. At every turn, she has been a leading voice against the Trump Administration’s work to roll back environmental protections, open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, eliminate portions of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, and construct the border wall along tribal sacred sites. She has also fought the Trump Administration’s efforts to cut programs that benefit tribal communities.

We are grateful for the Obama-Biden Administration’s work to improve the United States’ relationship with tribal nations, and by taking steps to resolve longstanding trust and water rights lawsuits, expand protections for women in Indian country under the Violence Against Women Act, and expand health care access under the Affordable Care Act and Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The Biden-Harris Administration can build back better by appointing the first Native American as Secretary of the Interior.

We stand ready to partner with your Administration, and work with the first Native American cabinet secretary in American history.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada and the leaders of the 27 member tribes, support Congresswoman Deb Haaland for Secretary of Interior.

Respectfully,



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