



Intertribal Agriculture Council  
100 N. 27th Street, Suite 500, Billings, MT 59101

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December 18, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
Biden-Harris Transition Team  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20270

**Re: IAC Support of Rep. Deb Haaland's Nomination to Serve as Secretary of the Interior**

President-elect Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris:

The Intertribal Agriculture Council would like to congratulate Representative Deb Haaland on her nomination to serve as the first Indian to lead the Department of Interior. Making clear their intention to begin to address the shortcomings of the federal government's relationship with Indian Country, the Biden-Harris Administration has recognized that the solutions for not only Indian Country, but for national resource management as a whole, will benefit from an Indian perspective. We applaud President-elect Biden for this wise choice.

Since our inception in 1987, the challenge of meaningfully elevating Indian Country's agriculture needs beyond the chronically understaffed and underfunded Bureau of Indian Affairs to engage the entire Department in helping to address the issues of Indian Country, has always included an insurmountable amount of education for whomsoever as we may have encountered. Throughout its entire history and today, the decisions and policies made by the leadership of the Department impact the lives and livelihoods of American Indian and Alaska Natives across the entire country. While the entire federal government shares the federal trust and treaty responsibilities, DOI is looked at to lead these efforts. In its over 170 year history, a Native American has never served as Secretary of the Interior to lead the federal government's engagement and responsibilities to tribal governments and tribal citizens. Having a strong Native voice in the President's cabinet with Rep. Haaland's experience and qualifications will ensure that the entire federal government is accountable to Indian Country.

We look forward to assisting President-elect Biden and Secretary Haaland in this ongoing effort in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

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