



OSAGE NATION CONGRESS
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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
ELI POTTS ~ JOE TILLMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Joint Statement
Confirmation of Secretary Deb Haaland
3/16/2021 1:00PM

OSAGE NATION: Yesterday, March 15th, 2021, The United States Senate voted to confirm Congresswoman Deb Haaland as the 54th Secretary of the United States Department of Interior. Haaland, of New Mexico's Laguna Pueblo, is the first Native American to ever serve in the Cabinet of a United States President.

The Oklahoman reported on Jan. 18th, 2021,

In a statement after [President] Biden announced his intent to nominate Haaland, National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp said "all of Indian Country celebrates an incredible and historic milestone. The centuries of invisibility of American Indian and Alaska Native people are fading as our best and brightest emerge into prominent positions of leadership."

We agree.

All of Indian Country celebrates this historic milestone and we would like to congratulate the Honorable Deb Haaland on her confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Interior.

"I see this as an important position, not only as a Cabinet official, but as a Leader for Tribal Nations throughout the United States. Each of us will have business before Secretary Haaland and it will be good to see a Native American woman and sovereignty supporter at the same table" said Congressman Tillman.

"The Interior Department oversees national parks and other public lands and resources, and its responsibilities include regulating oil and gas exploration on federal property. The department includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Trust Fund Administration."- Oklahoman, 1/18/21

"Secretary Haaland is supported by so many and I am optimistic about the relationships and experience she takes with her to the Department of Interior. I wish the Secretary nothing but success. I am disappointed, however, that the Osage Nation was not a signatory to a letter from Oklahoma Tribal Leaders urging Oklahoma's Senators to support Haaland's confirmation" said Congressman Potts.

Oklahoma tribal leaders said, "As senators for a state with 39 federally recognized Tribal nations and one of the highest Native populations in the United States, you fully recognize the importance of including Native representation at the highest levels of government. Native voices bring unique perspectives to vital discussions, and more often than not have a deeper understanding of the way federal initiatives impact Tribal citizens and Tribal governments."-Oklahoman, 1/18/21

The letter was signed by Leaders from 26 of Oklahoma's federally recognized tribes:

the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe; the Apache Tribe; the Cherokee Nation; the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe; the Chickasaw Nation; the Choctaw Nation; the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; the Delaware Nation; the Eastern Shawnee Tribe; the Fort Sill Apache Tribe; the Iowa Tribe; the Kaw Nation; the Kickapoo Tribe; the Kiowa Tribe; the Miami Tribe; the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; the Ottawa Tribe; the Pawnee Nation; the Ponca Tribe of Indians; the Peoria Tribe; the Quapaw Tribe; the Sac and Fox Nation; the Seneca-Cayuga Nation; the Shawnee Tribe; the Wichita and Affiliate Tribes; and the Wyandotte Nation.

We join many in Indian Country today in celebrating Secretary Haaland.

We hope that the Department of Interior, under her leadership, is able to move quickly on matters of importance to the Osage Nation and others. We are confident in our belief that her perspective and understanding will contribute to a period of mutual growth and better representation on issues relating to American Indians.

Secretary Haaland commented in response to her nomination, "A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior." Since March 3, 1849, 172 years, the Secretary's office has never been occupied by a Native American. "Not only is this confirmation welcome, it's about time" said Congressman Potts.

Congratulations Secretary Deb Haaland.

CONGRESSMAN ELI POTTS: 918.949.0354
CONGRESSMAN JOE TILLMAN: 918.277.2538



UNITED *for* **OKLAHOMA**

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
United States Senate
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inhofe and Lankford:

We the undersigned Tribal leaders from the state of Oklahoma wholeheartedly endorse the selection of Rep. Deb Haaland to be the next Secretary of the Interior. We ask that you support this historic nomination when it comes before the Senate.

An enrolled citizen of the Laguna Pueblo, Rep. Haaland would be the first Indigenous person to hold a Cabinet position. As senators for a state with 39 federally recognized Tribal nations and one of the highest Native populations in the United States, you fully recognize the importance of including Native representation at the highest levels of government. Native voices bring unique perspectives to vital discussions, and more often than not have a deeper understanding of the way federal initiatives impact Tribal citizens and Tribal governments.

Rep. Haaland is not only a historic pick—she is the right pick for this position. She understands sovereignty and appreciates the trust relationship and our nation’s treaty obligations. She recognizes the importance of Tribal businesses and knows how these businesses can be an economic engine for states, rural regions, and impoverished areas. She boasts public and private sector experience in relevant Tribal and land issues, and a record of working across the aisle to get things done. During her time in Congress, she built meaningful relationships with House and Senate Republicans and worked hard to find common ground on tough issues.

Rep. Haaland cares deeply about rural and western communities and comes from a family of hunters, farmers, and ranchers. She is a team player, and will take a balanced approach on energy and

sustainability matters. Without question, Rep. Haaland will be an Interior Secretary for all of America because she shares our common bond: a love of our land and waters and a deep desire to protect them for generations to come.

We urge you to vote yes on Rep. Haaland's nomination.

Sincerely,

John R. Johnson

John R. Johnson, Governor, Absentee-Shawnee
Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Durell Cooper

Durell Cooper, Chairman, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Chuck Hoskin, Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

Reggie Wassana

Reggie Wassana, Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe

Bill Anoatubby

Bill Anoatubby, Governor, Chickasaw Nation

Gary Batton

Gary Batton, Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

John Barrett

John Barrett, Chairman, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Deborah Dotson

Deborah Dotson, President, Delaware Nation

Glenna Wallace

Glenna Wallace, Chief, Eastern Shawnee Tribe

Lori Gooday Ware

Lori Gooday Ware, Chairwoman, Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Edgar B. Kent Jr.

Edgar B. Kent Jr., Chairman, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Lynn Williams

Lynn Williams, Chairwoman, Kaw Nation

David Pacheco Sr

David Pacheco, Chairman, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Matthew Komalty

Matthew Komalty, Chairman, Kiowa Tribe

Douglas Lankford

Douglas G. Lankford, Chief, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

David W. Hill

David W. Hill, Principal Chief, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Ethel E. Cook

Ethel E. Cook, Chief, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

Walter R. Echo-Hawk

Walter R. Echo-Hawk, President, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

Oliver Little Cook Sr.

Oliver Little Cook Sr., Chairman, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

CRAIG HARPER

Craig Harper, Chief, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

J. Byrd

Joseph Tali Byrd, Chairman, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma

Justin Wood

Justin F. Wood, Principal Chief, Sac and Fox Nation

Sue Channing

Sue Channing, Chief, Seneca-Cayuga Nation

Ben Barnes

Ben Barnes, Chief, Shawnee Tribe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Parton". The script is fluid and cursive.

Terri Parton, President, Wichita and Affiliate Tribes
(Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Friend". The script is fluid and cursive.

Billy Friend, Chief, Wyandotte Nation