



2021 Virtual Winter Convention

RESOLUTION #2021 – 11

SUPPORT SENATE CONFIRMATION OF DEB HAALAND AS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (DOI) manages nearly one-fifth of the land in the United States (500 million acres), regulates oil and gas extraction across the country and off our coasts, manages the delivery of water for farmers and ranchers across the country, and is the home of the U.S. Geological Survey – which gathers and analyzes data related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, DOI manages our National Parks, National Monuments, wildlife refuges, and extends protections to threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, these multifaceted environment and natural resource responsibilities impact the entire planet; and

WHEREAS, DOI's mandate also includes the implementation of many federal laws and policies regarding Native people and, nearly one-quarter of the Department's annual budget is dedicated to its' responsibilities to manage government-to-government relations with 578 federally recognized Indian tribes and millions of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, DOI performs functions in nearly every aspect of tribal affairs - from education to law enforcement, social services, economic development, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, DOI has never been led by a Native American; and

WHEREAS, representation in government matters, and it is important that the people who live with the direct consequences of government decisions must be represented in the room where those decisions happen; and

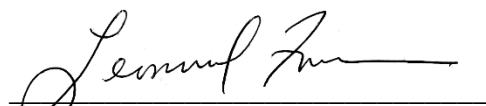
WHEREAS, Native American people are currently serving in Congress, and have previously been appointed as Ambassadors, and who have served in Assistant Secretary or Deputy Secretary positions in the Federal Government, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that United State Representative Deb Haaland is a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, and presently serves as the Chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands, which has oversight authority of the DOI, and as such, would have a deep understanding of the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the Senate confirmation of United State Representative Deb Haaland as the Biden Administration Secretary of the Interior.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 25-28, 2021, with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary