



February 19, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

**RE: Confirmation of Interior Secretary-designate Debra Haaland**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Barrasso:

We are writing today urge you to support the confirmation of Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM) as Secretary of the Interior.

Our nation's public lands and waters are among our most precious natural resources and emblems of a cherished American heritage. Furthermore, they are the backbone of the \$788 billion outdoor recreation economy that not only supports 5.2 million American jobs and healthy communities but also provides opportunities for the U.S. to leverage the natural climate solutions we will need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and ensure Americans a safer, healthier, more prosperous future. And as our nation lifts itself out of the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor recreation can serve as a salve for our economic, individual, and public health crises, so long as we guarantee widespread and equitable access.

During her time in Congress, Rep. Haaland has been a true champion of the outdoors with a great understanding of the role of the outdoor recreation economy in her home state of New Mexico. She demonstrated a commitment to increasing equitable access through her leadership on the Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act. She was also a strong advocate for the historic and bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, a flagship conservation and access bill.

Our industry has enjoyed a strong partnership with Rep. Haaland on key legislation that balances conservation priorities with climate justice and diversity and inclusion. As a lead sponsor on the Environmental Justice Legacy Pollution Cleanup Act of 2020, Rep. Haaland demonstrated her understanding of the unjust, inequitable, and long-suffered harm of environmental hazards on low-income, tribal, and minority communities.

The outdoor industry believes meaningful climate action is a moral and ethical imperative that requires strong collaboration between business and government. Climate change is already disrupting our supply chains, our businesses, and the places our customers use our products. We are working hard to change our business practices, and we need an equal commitment from legislators to further incentivize and expedite our efforts. Secretary-designate Haaland is one such legislator. She also supports one of our industry's top priorities, the 30x30 initiative and we look forward to working with her and the Biden administration to preserve 30 percent of our nation's lands and oceans by 2030.

As the head of the Interior Department, she will support climate policies that strengthen the outdoor recreation, restoration, and resilience economies. The outdoor economy creates jobs, benefits businesses, and generates economic development that can be one part of a more comprehensive solution to help alleviate hardships faced by traditional energy communities as the nation makes a difficult but critical transition to renewable energy.

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Like Secretary-designate Haaland, our industry believes every American has the right to thrive outside. When outdoor spaces are welcoming, accessible, and safe for all, everyone benefits. She will make these themes central to the Interior Department's efforts, and we are eager to join and support her work.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Industry Association and member companies:

All Good Products

American Alpine Institute

Backpacker's Pantry

Burton

Compose[d] Creative

Darby Communications

Equinox LTD

Heart of the Lakes

Industrial Revolution

K Gregg Consulting

Jones Snowboards

L.L. Bean

Lacrosse Footwear, Inc.

MARCAT Group, LLC

Mazamas

NEMO Equipment

Nite Ize

Oberlap North America

Oboz Footwear

Optic Nerve Eyewear

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Alliance

Pancho Via Adventures

Patagonia

Pull Through Sites

REI Co-op

Sanitas Sales Group

Sea to Summit

Simms Fishing Products

Swiftkick

The Conservation Alliance

Toad&Co

Turtle Fur

CC: Committee Members