February 22, 2021

Sen. Joe Manchin  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. John Barrasso  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Outdoor recreation community support for the nomination of the  
Honorable Debra Haaland to be the Secretary of the Interior

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the human powered outdoor recreation community and outdoor inspired businesses, we are honored to enthusiastically support the confirmation of Rep. Deb Haaland to be Secretary of the Interior.

The outdoor recreation community and the outdoor recreation industry are profoundly interested in the management of our country’s public lands and waters. These landscapes, owned in common by all Americans, provide incalculable benefits for the millions of people who enjoy pursuits like hiking, camping, paddling, skiing, climbing, mountain biking, and coastal recreation. These activities in turn help Americans to come to know their public lands and develop a connection with the natural world and a conservation and stewardship ethic. Outdoor recreation also fuels the outdoor recreation economy, which accounts for 2.1 percent of our national GDP and employs more than 5.1 million Americans.

All of these benefits depend upon healthy and well managed public lands and waters, and we are confident that Rep. Haaland will, as Secretary of the Interior, steward our common resources wisely and with vision.
In her capacity as Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, Rep. Haaland has been a leader in supporting outdoor recreation access for all people, including those who have been historically denied these opportunities. Her work helped lead to the bipartisan passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, and she has consistently championed measures to facilitate access to the outdoors, including through bills like the Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act.

Rep. Haaland has been a leading voice in efforts to make public lands and waters a part of climate solutions, not only through a more appropriately defined role for fossil fuels, but also through conservation and through thoughtful planning for increased renewable energy development, as exemplified by her cosponsorship of the bipartisan Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act.

In addition to her policy expertise and leadership, Rep. Haaland’s personal background and her identity as an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna is inspiring to millions of Americans, including Indigenous communities, overlooked or subject to grave injustice at the hands of the federal government. As Secretary of the Interior, Rep. Haaland will be the first Native American cabinet member and exercise responsibility over the government’s treaty and trust responsibilities. This historic step forward is deeply meaningful and long overdue.

President Biden could not have named a more inspiring and capable leader for Secretary of the Interior, and we wholeheartedly support her confirmation by the Senate.

Best regards,

Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

Brady Robinson
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance
Our Organizations

Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands, and climbing areas throughout North America. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than $25 million, awarded 800 grants, helped to protect more than 73 million acres of wildlands and 3,576 miles of rivers; stop or remove 36 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 18 climbing areas. For complete information about The Conservation Alliance, visit www.conservationalliance.com.