

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0014-21

DATE: January 27, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE: To support New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be appointed as the Secretary of the Interior under the President Joe R. Biden Administration.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 10:31pm 01-27-21
Posting End Date: 02-01-21
Eligible for Action: 02-02-21

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—THIRD YEAR, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5

6 Primary Sponsor

7 TRACKING NO. 0014-21
8

9 AN ACTION

10 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW
11 MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS
12 SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
13 UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION
14

15 WHEREAS:

- 16 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
17 102 (A).
- 18 B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a standing
19 committee of the Navajo Nation Council and specifically empowered the Committee
20 to:
- 21 i. To review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal
22 and state departments and to assist development of such programs
23 designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through
24 intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such
25 departments.
 - 26 ii. To coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities
27 concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before
28 Congressional committees, departments of the United States government,
29 state legislatures and departments and county and local governments.
30

1 iii. To recommend to United States departments and agencies, the states and
2 various regional agencies the appointment of individuals who, in the
3 judgment of the Committee, will fulfill the requirements of their office and
4 serve the interests of the Navajo Nation.

5 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 and 701 (A)(7)-(9).

6 C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United
7 States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.

8 D. Congresswoman Deb Haaland is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna in New
9 Mexico.

10 E. In 2006, Congresswoman Haaland earned her Juris Doctor from the University of
11 New Mexico School of Law.

12 F. Congresswoman Haaland's political career includes serving as the Vote Director for
13 Native Americans in Barack Obama's 2012 presidential re-election campaign and in
14 2015, Congresswoman Haaland was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the
15 Democratic Party of New Mexico.

16 G. In 2018, Congresswoman Haaland was elected to the United States House of
17 Representatives for the First District of New Mexico and became one of first two
18 Native American women to serve in the House of Representatives.

19 H. Congresswoman Haaland has close to twenty years of public service including
20 representing Native American governments, including but not limited to her Laguna
21 Pueblo and San Felipe Pueblo.

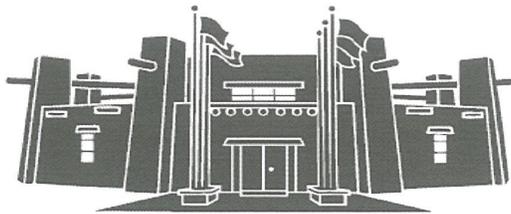
22 I. Congresswoman Haaland is and has always been a well-informed and tireless advocate
23 for United States Public Lands and Native American issues.

24 J. Congresswoman Haaland has the education, public service, and political experience
25 necessary to lead the U.S. Department of Interior in a direction that enhances and
26 protects, rather than diminishes, Native American governments and Native American
27 lands and on December 17, 2020, United States President nominated Congresswoman
28 Haaland to be appointed as first Native American Secretary of the Interior.

1 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

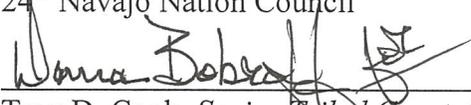
- 2 A. The Navajo Nation supports New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be
3 appointed and confirmed as the Secretary of the Interior under the President Biden
4 administration.
- 5 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation
6 Speaker, and/or their designees, to advocate and support the appointment and
7 confirmation of Congresswoman Haaland as the Secretary of the Interior.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eugenia Charles-Newton, Delegate
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Troy D. Cook, *Senior Tribal Court Advocate*
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: January 27, 2021

RE: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO
BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN
ADMINISTRATION**

I have prepared the above referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Also, understand that the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees that those stated in the title.

You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment.

If the proposed legislation is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahe'he'.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0014-21_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration

Date posted: January 27, 2021 at 10:31PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0014-21

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

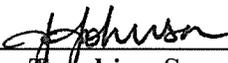
TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration

Posted: January 27, 2021 at 10:31 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 01, 2021

Digital Comments received:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Comments Supporting | 1) Patrice Henderson 2) Lila Crank 3) Anthony Crank 4) Ginger Sykes Torres 5) Triston Black 6) Nekesia Tulley |
| Comments Opposing | 1) Ervin Chavez 2) Mabel C. Senger |
| Comments/Recommendations | <i>None</i> |



 Legislative Tracking Secretary
 Office of Legislative Services

02/02/21 9:56 AM

 Date/Time

Letter of Support for Deb Haaland

Patrice Henderson <patricewhenderson@gmail.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

January 30, 2021

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing this letter of support for legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

As a professional Navajo woman, I have advocated the advancement of our nieces, daughters, granddaughters to pursue their dreams and aspirations. When our Native sister Deb Haaland was elected to Congress, the glass ceiling was broken and it paved the way for our young Navajo women to one day represent our people in Washington, DC. Her nomination and appointment is historic because she will be the first Native American in a Cabinet Secretary position—and Native people will finally have a Native voice in one of the highest offices in our Federal Government.

Native women carry the songs and prayers of the tribal communities. At a young age, we are taught special leadership skills to help guide our families and to serve as matriarchs for our clans. These teachings are the same teachings that Deb Haaland will carry with her as the Secretary of the Interior.

The Navajo Nation must support our Native sister. I know that she will lead this office in a balanced approach and with an open heart to listen to not only our people, but to listen and provide pragmatic solutions for all of the American people. As Navajo people, we know that the values of our Native American communities are values that have helped guide the direction of this Nation since time immemorial. Support for Deb Haaland is support for our people and our people's lifeways.

I strongly urge the members of the Navajo Nation Council to quickly pass this legislation and share our support with our congressional delegation.

Sincerely,

Patrice Henderson

0014-21

Lila Crank <lilacrank@icloud.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Lila Crank
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
Lila.crank@colorado.edu

I am writing in support of Legislation No 0014-21, the action of the Navajo Nation supporting the appointment of Deb Haaland as Secretary of the United States Department of Interior under the presidency of Joseph R. Biden. I strongly support this measure as tribal values are American values; her appointment will create opportunities for discourse and valuable input from Indigenous communities. Additionally, Deb as a leader is pragmatic, fair, and well-balanced in her decision making. She has shown ability to work across the aisle in a bipartisan manner.

The appointment of Deb Haaland would mean Indigenous representation in one of the highest offices of the land, representation that is beyond its due date. Indigenous voices belong in the cabinet, she is a fantastic choice it is in my strongest belief that she will create fair and open discourse.

Lila Crank

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

0041-21

[Anthony Crank <tony_crank@hotmail.com>](mailto:tony_crank@hotmail.com)

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Anthony Crank
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
heyjoe28@yahoo.com

I am writing in support of Legislation No 0014-21, the action of the Navajo Nation supporting the appointment of Deb Haaland as Secretary of the United States Department of Interior under the presidency of Joseph R. Biden. I strongly support this measure as tribal values are American values; her appointment will create opportunities for discourse and valuable input from Indigenous communities. Additionally, Deb as a leader is pragmatic, fair, and well-balanced in her decision making. She has shown ability to work across the isle in a bipartisan manner.

The appointment of Deb Haaland would mean Indigenous representation in one of the highest offices of the land, representation that is beyond its due date. Indigenous voices belong in the cabinet, she is a fantastic choice it is in my strongest belief that she will create fair and open discourse.

Anthony Crank

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Letter of Support for legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

[Ginger Sykes Torres <pinguina@gmail.com>](mailto:pinguina@gmail.com)

Mon 2/1/2021 4:50 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

February 1, 2021

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing in support of legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

I am a Navajo Nation citizen, a mother, a graduate of Stanford University, and an environmental consultant who has worked with Federal, State, and tribal agencies for over 15 years on environmental impact analyses and land management plans. Based on my consulting work for the Department of the Interior, I recognize the importance and historic nature of the appointment of Deb Haaland to Interior Cabinet Secretary in the Biden-Harris Administration.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were elected with the backing of Native American voters in record turnout based on their commitment to Indian Country to uphold trust responsibility to tribal nations, strengthen relationships between the United States and Indian tribes, and empower tribes to govern their own communities and make their own decisions. Deb Haaland's nomination is a first step toward advancing the Biden-Harris commitment to Indian Country.

As the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland would oversee the caretaking of public lands and wildlife in over one-fifth of the United States and she would oversee the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education. This is an opportunity unlike any other in history for one of our Indigenous relatives to be a voice for the unique needs of tribal communities and students far and wide. As a Pueblo woman, Deb Haaland understands the importance of honor and respect for our earth and wildlife. Managing energy and environmental resources and uses on public lands will require balancing environmental ethos with local economic drivers and she is well suited to lead the Department of Interior with a fair and even-keeled approach. As an honorable public servant, Deb Haaland will provide pragmatic solutions for ALL American people in the management of our nation's lands.

As a mother, I would love for my daughter, and all of our daughters and strong Native women to add "Presidential Cabinet Secretary" to their dreams within reach. Deb Haaland has paved the way to Congress for our young Navajo women and with the support of the Navajo Nation Council, she will again pave the way for our children to lead one of the highest offices in the Federal Government.

The Navajo Nation must support Deb Haaland because her success is our success as Native people. I strongly urge the Navajo Nation Council to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ginger Sykes Torres
Founder, Dine4Biden

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Ginger Sykes Torres

| Phone.

| Email: gingertorres@gmail.com

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Legislation 0014-21

Triston Black <tristonblack@outlook.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 12:27 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yá'át'ééh nihinaat'áanii,

As a student, we are always taught to respect and honor our teachers, family, leaders, and elders. Honorable Deb Haaland is a role model for Indian Country and a strong Pueblo matriarch. We as students have had the honor to be in her presence during high school. Her motivation, teachings, and passion inspired us to help our communities and tribal people. With that, I respectfully support this legislation. Her efforts will restore Indian Country within the Department of Interior and build back better our Nation-to-Nation trust responsibilities and treaty obligations.

Axéhee'

Triston Black

Student

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Comments on Legislation 0014-21

Nekesia Tulley <tulleyn@unm.edu>

Mon 2/1/2021 11:49 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Daniel Tso <danieltso@navajo-nsn.gov>; Carl Slater <carlslater@navajo-nsn.gov>; Seth Damon <sdamon@navajo-nsn.gov>; Eugenia Charles-Newton <echarles-newton@navajo-nsn.gov>; Amber K. Crotty <acrotty@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Re: Legislation 0014-21

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing to you today urging you to support Legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

My name is Nekesia Tulley and I am a college student at University of New Mexico seeking a bachelor's degree in anthropology. My hope is to attain a degree so that I may influence the preservation of knowledge and wisdom of our people as an anthropologist on the Navajo Nation.

I know this area of study is sometimes controversial in our community because of the cultural and traditional beliefs regarding how we interact with our sacred ancestral sites. However, as a Navajo woman I strongly believe that my upbringing, teaching and worldview can influence this profession so that it is more respectful of our Navajo traditional values. If I do not do this work, then this work will be performed by outsiders who have limited knowledge of our ways and ethical standards and they may not take our views into account.

I share this with you because my plight is similar to the work of Congresswoman Deb Haaland—and that is why I want you to support her. Deb knows the controversy and struggle she faces in leading the Department of the Interior, an agency making the tough decisions of weighing environmental and economic impacts. These decisions do not just impact tribal communities, but all communities.

We know that for nearly a century on the Navajo Nation the natural resource extractive industries have brought economic resources to our people and families—in fact, our own Navajo government was created for the purpose of negotiating and executing contracts for mining and oil development. However, we also know that tribal communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards through industry practices and public policies. This reality has created a dilemma. How do we move forward in ensuring the environmental safety of our people while addressing the economic impact to our Navajo families when we decrease our reliance on natural resource extraction and an increase our investment into renewable energy?

There are tough decisions to make, and our Nation is at a crossroads. However, I feel more confident putting my trust in a fellow Native American like Deb Haaland. She knows tribal communities and knows the impact that the Department Interior's decisions will have on our Native families. I trust that she will lead with an even-hand and that the United States will have an Interior Secretary who will make decisions with an Indigenous point of view. For too long individuals have occupied that position and they have little-to-no understanding of the needs of our tribal communities and Navajo families.

I urge our Navajo Nation Council leadership to fully support Deb Haaland's confirmation as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Like me, she is working to include a passionate and benevolent voice into a sphere where Indigenous views have often been lacking.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Nekesia Tulley
Chichiltah Chapter

Email: tulleyn@unm.edu

Phone:

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0014-21

Ervin Chavez <echvz0953@outlook.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:52 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Ervin Chavez, a member of the Navajo Nation, Nageezi Chapter President, and a 40 year advocate for the Navajo Allottees in Northwest New Mexico. My comments on proposed Navajo Council Legislation 0014-21. I was heavily involved in two major litigations involving the Department of Interior. First under Shii Shi Keyah Navajo Allottee Association VS Donald Hodel Department of Interior from 1982 to 1996. Second litigation Louise Cobell VS Department of Interior 1996-2010. Both of these cases involved Indian Allotment owners, We advocating for production and accounting of Indian Oil and Gas royalties. At present, Navajo Allotment lands, in Eastern Agency. are part oil and gas productions resulting in IIM royalties being realized by Navajo families. This income is so important to this region of the Navajo Nation because of the lack of economy developments and now being hit with pandemic. Navajo families depend on these revenues for their daily living needs.

New Mexico Congressional Delegations, namely Senators Udall, Senator Heinrich, Representative Lujan, and Representative Deb Haaland tried to push through HB 2181 and SB 1079 placing a 30 mile buffer Zone north of Chaco Canyon National park of no Oil and Gas Developments. These areas are within t Nageezi, Huerfano, and other Navajo Chapters. This was done without any consultations with the Navajo Allottee living and ownership of these allotment lands of Northwest New Mexico. Allottees repeatedly requested for public meetings with these Congressional Delegations to no avail. Both Representatives Lujan and Haaland testified, on the Congressional floor, that they consulted with their constituents on HB 2181, when in fact they did not. The Eastern Agency allottee thanks the Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee and Navajo Nation Council for supporting resolution on limiting a buffer zone to 5 miles.

Therefore, it is the request that Navajo Nation Council do not support proposed Navajo Council Legislation 0014-21, for the Secretary of Interior and to leave the option open for Congressional hearing. On behalf of Allottees who has concerns with Deb Haaland, as a candidate for this position and her prior actions on land issues in Chaco Canyon area, we strongly feel that she WILL NOT be objective on land issues, including Navajo allotment lands, in her decisions if appointed to Secretary of Interior. We oppose her consideration for this appointment by President Biden/Harris Administration.

Ervin Chavez,
Nageezi Community and Chapter President
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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Legislation No: _0014-21_

[Wayne Senger <wlsenger@yahoo.com>](mailto:wlsenger@yahoo.com)

Mon 2/1/2021 4:50 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Wayne Senger <wlsenger@yahoo.com>;

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
[P.O. Box 3390](#)
[Window Rock, AZ](#) 86515
(928)871-7586

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing in response to **Legislation No: _0014-21_ Title: An Action Relating to the Naahik'iya'ti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration.**

I am a Navajo. I live in Kansas but I am also an owner / allottee from the Nageezi New Mexico area.

It has come to my attention that New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland is being recommended for appointment as Secretary of the Interior under President Joe Biden's Administration.

It has also come to my attention that she has not been responsive or supportive of local needs and resource development in my community in New Mexico. It has also come to my attention she supports the 10 mile buffer zone for petroleum development around the Chaco Culture area. I think that buffer zone is excessive and that current environmental and cultural protections are adequate.

As a result I do not feel she would be a good candidate and wish to express my objection to her appointment as Secretary of Interior.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mabel C. Senger
Navajo Allottee from the Nageezi, NM area

[Salina, KS 67401](#)

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**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0014-21

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

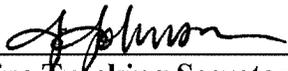
TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration

Posted: January 27, 2021 at 10:31 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 01, 2021

Digital Comments received:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Comments Supporting | 1) Robyn Jackson 2) Carol Davis 3) Percy Deal |
| Comments Opposing | <i>None</i> |
| Comments/Recommendations | 1) Lilly Comanche 2) Alice W. Benally |



Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

02/05/21 12:46pm
Date/Time

Support Legislation 0014-21

Robyn <chooshgai.bitsi@gmail.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 9:29 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>; Eugenia Charles-Newton <echarles-newton@navajo-nsn.gov>; Carl Slater <carlslater@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yá'át'ééh,

I am submitting my comment on legislation 0014-21.

I strongly urge the Navajo Nation Council Delegates to support the confirmation of Rep. Haaland as Secretary of the Interior, DOI. Rep. Haaland is a highly qualified individual. She has previously earned the educational background of Juris Doctor. In her time as a New Mexico Congressional Representative, she has gained a lot of experience in national settings. Additionally, she has met with a number of New Mexico communities. She has been very active as a Congressional representative, in the Committee of Natural Resources. Her experience thus far will assist her in handling the complex issues under the Department's purview. I hope that our Nation will support this amazing Native American candidate.

Ahxé'hee',
Robyn Jackson
Wheatfields, AZ

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Legislation 0014-21

Carol Davis <caroljdavis.2004@gmail.com>

Tue 2/2/2021 12:04 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Dear Honorable Navajo Nation Council members:

I write to express my support for the appointment of Representative Deb Haaland.

At a time when there is so much visible discord in our nation, and while we watch white supremacy taking over our nation's capital, it's imperative that we, as Indigenous peoples, more than ever need to unite and support one another for all First Nations.

If we don't support one another, we have half a country that would like to take what little we have left to guarantee education and health services to our elders, and our future not-yet-born children.

Please put aside your differences and consider the overall good that could happen for all tribal nations.

Ahe'hee,

Carol Davis
caroljdavis.2004@gmail.com
Mobile : (928)

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The Most Honorable Navajo Nation Council:

February 2nd, 2021

Regard: Legislation 0014-21

First, I want to thank the Honorable Delegate Charles-Newman for introducing Legislation 0014-21 supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be appointed as Secretary of the Interior, Department of Interior, under President Joe Biden Administration. Legislation by Delegate Charles-Newman is the right thing to do with the Biden Administration, it strength the relationship between the Navajo Nation and Biden Administration and Congresswoman Haaland during her tenure as the Secretary of the Interior.

Second; I don't know the Congresswoman, never met her but reading the written articles about her, her upbringing in her early years on the Laguna reservation in New Mexico is very much like ours. No running water, inadequate housing, BIA schools, lack of economic development and jobs. She fully understands the hardships her people and other Native Americans went through. The failure of the federal government to carry out their trust responsibilities.

The Secretary of the Interior position is a very powerful position and is responsible for the entire natural resources, federal lands including Indian reservations. The Secretary carries out Presidential Executive Orders, can make policies and change policies, execute extractive leases and other leases, can place moratorium on lands and have power over all waters and so many other important things.

Third; in Dzil Yijiin region and elsewhere on the reservation we have felt the powers of the Secretary in most cases in a negative ways. Federal government do make mistakes, but they rarely admits them. For example; the creation of the 1882 Executive Order Reservation for two tribes was a major mistake, after 140 years we continue to live under the aftermath. Due to unresolved question as to who real owns the land, federal government place a moratorium on everything on the entire reservation exclusive of the original Hopi reservation. Today, we still lack many economic and infrastructure development, the cancelled grazing permits has not been restored today. While there was moratorium on leases, only Peabody and Kayenta Mine leases on Black Mesa were approved by the Secretary to extract coal and the N-aquifer, our sole source water.

The 50 year lease to mine coal must be weak on reclamations and clean up, Peabody is in the process of walking away leaving the mined area unrestored to its original condition, no underground water recharge system in place, Peabody has no plan to share and laid off all its worker. Instead Peabody has requested the federal government to grant it five years delay for the reclamation. Perhaps given them time to file another bankruptcy which will allow them to walk away untouched. All this is in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior.

In New Mexico, the current policy in executing oil and gas leases by individuals with the government is presenting a serious issues. The extraction of oil and gas uses and pollute lot of underground water. These water are not individually owned but by the entire community. These damaged water effects everyone. The current policy is also in the hands of the Secretary.

Finally, the Navajo Nation in November, 2020 election a huge number supported Biden/Harris ticket, it's beginning to pay off, Biden Administration is appointing Navajos to certain important positions within the Administration, with your unanimous support to legislation 0014-21 it will create an even stronger relationship with the Administration. The new Secretary of the Interior may not be able to correct all of federal failures but will lead the way to softening adverse policies and make them more livable. Consultations and federal trust responsibility with Navajo and other tribes will greatly improve. With the passage of this legislation, other tribes throughout the country will join in.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions you can contact me at 928-
or at email deal.percy@gmail.com.

Percy Deal

P.O. Box

Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

0014-21

Lilly Comanche <lillycomanche@gmail.com>

Tue 2/2/2021 10:31 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Executive Director Office
of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390 Window Rock, AZ
86515
(928) 871-7586

RE:Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland.

To the Naabik'iyáti' Committee:

I am writing this letter, because I am asking you to represent your Dine people. Ms. Haaland does not hold the same interests as many of our people. I even believe many of her decisions will bring our people in dire times. A huge conflict of interest between many Dine Allottees and Ms. Haaland's ideology. Please consider all the Navajo Nation, before you support this legislation.

Concerned Navajo Allottee,
Lilly Comanche

Coba, NM 87013
(575)

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0014-21

AW Benally <shimasaani53@icloud.com>

Tue 2/2/2021 10:31 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Honorable Members of the Navajo Nation Council,

Please accept this correspondence concerning Legislation #0014-21, as my personal thoughts in opposition of the Sponsor Ms. Eugenia Charles-Newton's proposal to have the Navajo Nation Council support appointment of New Mexico Congresswoman, Deb Haaland as US Secretary of Interior under President Joe R. Biden Administration.

Although I've always voted the Democratic ticket during County, State and General Elections, I chose not to vote for Congresswoman Deb Haaland in the last General Election. Had I voted for her during the 2020 Election Year, it would've meant I agreed with her initiative to proceed with the House and Senate Bills to increase the Buffer Zone on allotted lands surrounding Chaco Canyon National Park located within Eastern Navajo Agency, where many of my relatives own and currently reside on allotted lands that have been passed to them through generations of time. She and other Democratic Congressional leadership never made efforts to consultation with us as actual Allottees. Similarly our own Navajo Nation President failed to consult with us to sit at a listening session to discuss Allottee rights to lease land for gas and oil drilling, although this activity has provided many, many of my relatives self sufficiency with food, shelter, clothing, transportation and education.

I have grave concerns as to what other decisions will commence to be made in behalf of our people from all Navajo Agencies and other Native Tribes across this United States of America, with no consultation on Native issues/concerns. If Congresswoman Haaland was capable of taking the actions she has with Gas & Oil without giving us ANY TIME to consult, what other initiatives will she do to benefit her own Agenda without consultation with all Native Tribes? At the few times I've heard her talk, she's never referenced ANY NATIVE TRIBE at all. She talks about her Tribe and her Tribe alone.

Remember Honorable Delegates, the Naabikyati Resolution, NABIJA-20: OPPOSING THE CHACO HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT of 2019, was approved and passed by you. Congresswoman Deb Haaland was a part of that initiative. Of much graver concern to me is, when she brings out that Chaco Canyon rightfully belongs to the Pueblo people, does that mean she may be beginning another era like that of the former Navajo/Hopi Land Dispute? Chaco Canyon is in the heart of Eastern Navajo. Our people have lived there for generations. Our people cannot go through another era of land dispute because our Navajo Government supported an Interior Secretary who already fails to CONSULTATION with grass rooted Dine' who currently occupy allotted land surrounding Chaco Canyon.

Respectfully,

Alice W. Benally, Allottee
Former Navajo Nation Delegate
Crownpoint, New Mexico

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