

RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL
OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

RESOLUTION OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DEBRA HAALAND TO SERVE AS SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe adopted its Constitution and By-Laws by referendum vote on December 14, 1935, in accordance with Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. § 5123) and under Article III of the Oglala Sioux Tribe Constitution, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe is a part of the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires, known as the Great Sioux Nation) and a signatory to the Treaty with the Teton of 1815, 7 Stat. 125 (Jul. 19, 1815), the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851, 1 Stat. 749 (Sept. 17, 1851), and the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868, 15 Stat. 635 (Apr. 29, 1868), and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is one of the largest land-based tribes in the United States. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is comprised of over 3,000,000 acres of land in southwestern South Dakota, and is roughly the size of Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, our Reservation is rural and remote, and we are in need of adequate housing, economic development, job opportunities, funding for infrastructure and roads, and quality health care, among other things. On our Reservation, over 51.9% of residents live below the poverty line, the per capita income is around \$8,768, unemployment is approximately 80%, and there is a high school dropout rate of over 60%, and

WHEREAS, the challenges we face are many and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have a critical need for new, affordable housing, home repairs, and increased funding from the BIA Housing Improvement Program (HIP). We also have severe shortages of police officers and are operating with less than 40% of the officers that BIA agrees are needed to provide adequate coverage on our Reservation. Many officers have been taken out of service due to COVID-19 exposure. Further, in the Great Plains Region, Indian Country roads have over \$60 million in backlogged maintenance and, on our Reservation, passage on many tribal roads is treacherous, especially in the winter, and

WHEREAS, United States Representative Debra Haaland is a strong leader who has a deep understanding of these and other issues facing our native communities, and she will make an outstanding Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, and

WHEREAS, Representative Haaland has served with distinction in the House of Representatives. As a Freshman Representative, she was selected to serve as Chair of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands, Vice Chair of the full Committee on Natural Resources, and Member of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. She also served on multiple Congressional Caucuses, notably among them as Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus and as member of the Bipartisan Caucus on Women's Issues, Safe Climate Caucus, and the United for Climate and Environmental Justice Congressional Task Force. Importantly, she also has a track record of working across the aisle. Rep. Haaland introduced more bills with bipartisan co-sponsorship than any other freshman legislator in 2019, and

WHEREAS, Representative Haaland leadership extends beyond Indian Country into other key areas of the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction. As Chair of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands she has overseen the development and passage of critical bills that address the management of the National Parks, the National Wildlife Refuge System, subsurface resources, critical and diminishing wildlife habitat, and the vast public and forest lands that are essential to our national welfare and identity, not just as indigenous peoples but as Americans. Climate change and meaningful wildlife and wild lands conservation are two of the greatest challenges facing our world - and especially tribal communities - today. We need someone who can effectively lead on these issues. We know that Rep. Haaland is ready to do just that.

WHEREAS, through these positions, Representative Haaland has raised national awareness and inspired action on vital indigenous, human rights, and environmental issues. Among her many accomplishments, has been leading the charge on addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in the United States. Her bills have not only turned a bright spotlight on this national calamity but also provided tools and solutions to help law enforcement, tribal communities, victims, and the broader society understand and respond to it. As Secretary of Interior with oversight of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, Representative Haaland would be a valuable contributor to the Administration's efforts to eradicate this national scourge.


WHEREAS, as a Westerner, Representative Haaland spent a great deal of time with families in tribal, rural, agricultural, and ranching communities. As such, she understands their diverse social, economic, and cultural needs. During her service in Congress, Representative Haaland demonstrated this keen understanding through her success in passing bills addressing business development, public lands and resource management, infrastructure, and increasing access to rural broadband and health care. Representative Haaland cares about every job and understands deeply the concerns that too many families have about putting food on their tables Representative Haaland has also been a proponent of energy production and related job development to support sustainable economies and advance our nation's resource independence, and

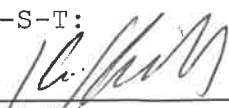
WHEREAS, as a Native woman, Representative Haaland descends from people who have hunted, farmed, managed, and cared for our nation's lands since time immemorial. She understands deeply that these landscapes are multipurpose and integral to sustaining many communities, economies, and cultures. We are confident in Representative Haaland ability to serve the diverse needs both inside and outside of Indian Country. Representative Haaland's record of legislative successes showcases that she will continue to bring pragmatism and bipartisanship to the performance of her responsibilities as Interior Secretary; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oglala Sioux Tribe Council hereby expresses its unqualified support for the nomination of United States Representative Debra Haaland to serve as Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior in the Biden-Harris Administration.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, as undersigned secretary of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, hereby certify that this Resolution was enacted by a vote of: 19 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; 2 Not Voting; during a SPECIAL SESSION held on the 4th day of FEBRUARY, 2021.


STACY L. TWO LANCE
Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribe

A-T-T-E-S-T:


KEVIN KILLER
President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

