February 4,2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

As members of organizations dedicated to historic preservation, we are pleased to urge Senate confirmation of Rep. Deb Haaland as Secretary of the Interior.

Our organizations represent thousands of archaeologists, cultural resource management specialists, historians, and anthropologists with a long-standing history of working directly with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to identify, document, and protect America's cultural and historic resources. We believe that Rep. Haaland's experience and background make her exceptionally well-qualified to lead the DOI.

Through her work in the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Haaland has demonstrated a deep commitment to the responsible stewardship of America's national parks, forests, wilderness, and marine sanctuaries. We applaud her advocacy on behalf of our public lands, her support for federal historic preservation programs, and her work to address the climate crisis.

As an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo with extensive experience advocating on behalf of tribes, Rep. Haaland has a keen understanding of the need to improve the federal government's relationships with Native communities. We believe that Rep. Haaland's leadership is critical to refining government-to-government tribal consultation policies, honoring the trust responsibility the federal government has to tribes, and improving recognition of the cultural and religious significance the tribes attach to specific sites.

Rep. Haaland's is eminently qualified to serve as our nation's Secretary of the Interior. We respectfully urge you to vote in support of Rep. Haaland's nomination, and we appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Anthropological Association
Archaeological Institute of America
Coalition for American Heritage
Illinois Archaeological Survey
Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
National Parks Conservation Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Northern Illinois Historic League
Preservation Action
Save Our Heritage Organisation
Society for Historical Archaeology

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources