

**AALS Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples Resolution #21-01
and Co-Sponsors**

**Title: Supporting the Nomination and Confirmation of Rep. Deb Haaland as
the Next United States Secretary of the Interior**

WHEREAS, we, the members of the AALS Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples Section, are educators in American law schools on the subjects of tribal law and sovereignty, federal Indian law, the treaty relationships between Tribal Nations and the United States, the role of the executive branch in fulfilling the treaty and trust obligations of the United States, including agencies within the Department of the Interior such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal agencies, and the protection of Indigenous homelands held in trust by the United States, for which the Department of the Interior is responsible; and

WHEREAS, despite the central role that the Department of the Interior plays in protecting, enhancing, and fulfilling the United States' trust and treaty obligations to Indian nations and Indigenous peoples, an Indigenous person has never led the Department as Secretary of Interior; and

WHEREAS, President-Elect Joseph R. Biden has selected Congresswoman Deb Haaland to serve as the Secretary of the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the nomination and confirmation of Congresswoman Haaland to serve as Secretary would be historic because she is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and, as an Indigenous woman, would be the first Indigenous person to serve in a cabinet position and the first to hold the position of Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Haaland is eminently qualified for the role, as demonstrated by the attainment of her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law, her experience in public service, and her membership on numerous Congressional Committees and Caucuses, including but not limited to: Vice Chair of Committee on Natural Resources, Chair of Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, Member of Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, Member of House Armed Services Committee, Member of House Subcommittee on Readiness, Co-Chair Native American Caucus, Vice Chair Equality Caucus, Vice Chair on Families and Children Living in Poverty for the Majority Leader Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, Vice Chair Democratic Women's Working Group, Deputy Whip for the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Member Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence, Member

Bipartisan Caucus on Women's Issues, Member Safe Climate Caucus, Member of the United for Climate and environmental Justice Congressional Task Force, and others.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the AALS Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples Section, enthusiastically support the nomination and confirmation of Congresswoman Deb Haaland to the post of Secretary of the Interior and we encourage the President-Elect and United States Congress to swiftly take any and all actions necessary to nominate and confirm her so that she can begin her important and historic work as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be preserved in the records of the Section and be displayed on the Section website.

Adopted this 14th day of January 2021.

Co-Sponsoring Sections:

Section on Agriculture and Food Law

Section on Minority Groups

Section on Women in Legal Education